

THE TIMES

No. 65,708

MONDAY OCTOBER 14 1996

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TODAY
10P

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Hogg says rabies law could be scrapped

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Correspondent

DOUGLAS HOGG, the Agriculture Minister, is proposing a review of Britain's quarantine rules which could lead to the world's toughest rabies controls being scrapped.

In a paper circulated to Cabinet ministers, Mr Hogg suggests it might be time to abandon quarantine for a passport-for-pets scheme based on the Swedish model, and strict new rules on vaccination and blood testing.

The move follows intense pressure on the Government from groups, including diplomats and service families, who claim that British policy, enforced since 1901, is too draconian and out of proportion to the threat.

The Prime Minister is understood to have offered cautious support for reform, but reservations have been expressed by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary and MP for the Channel port of Folkestone, who is worried about the impact on traditional Tory strongholds on the south coast.

Ministers have also said they wish to guarantee that any new system is as effective as quarantine has proved.

But the new mood of Mr Hogg and the Ministry of Agriculture, set out in last month's document, represents a significant shift of thinking in Whitehall.

Historically, the Ministry of Agriculture has been the staunchest defender of the laws which have guaranteed a rabies-free Britain.

But Mr Hogg and senior officials have been impressed by the success of a scheme in Sweden, which has abolished quarantine for pets from European Union countries and replaced it with a strict system of vaccination, blood testing, and identification by means of a microchip implanted in the animal. Sweden retains quarantine for non-EU countries.

It is understood that under the proposals for Britain, quarantine controls would be dropped for EU countries and rabies-free islands such as Cyprus and Malta. Ministry officials believe there is a strong case for phasing in reform, possibly starting with a reduction in the six-month quarantine period to between one and three months.

Any passport-for-pets scheme would also have to be rigorously controlled. Travelling pets would be compelled to have microchip implants and vets would have to sign certificates proving vaccination and blood testing of the animal. It is likely that animals would also be subject to further blood tests on arrival in Britain.

Three officials, including Keith Meldrum, the Government's

chief veterinary surgeon, have visited Sweden to monitor the scheme there. They were particularly struck, it seems, by the drop in the incidence of animal smuggling into Sweden after the change. There has been concern in government for some time that the high cost of quarantine — up to £2,000 for a dog — and the growing numbers of pet owners opposed to the rules were leading to an increase in illegal smuggling of animals.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, wants more scientific analysis but is said to be "very excited by the prospect of British people being able to travel freely with their pets".

Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, has been pressing for change. He is to return to Britain next summer with his two Norfolk terriers, Whisky and Soda. Last night he welcomed the prospect of reform and hoped it would apply to all rabies-free countries. "I think it would be very curious if they applied it just to the EU and not generally. Provided the animals carry a microchip, have been inoculated, have a certificate, and are tested on arrival in Britain, it should not make too much difference which country they come from," he said.

But David Shaw, Conservative MP for Dover, said he would fight any proposal to change the law. "It might be a tiny vote-winner for a small number of pet owners, but it would put a lot of fear in people."

Mr Hogg circulated his paper last month at the same time as the death in quarantine of a spaniel owned by Henrik Sorensen, a Danish diplomat, hit the headlines.

A government source said: "Mr Hogg's action was not connected with the diplomat, but the events were simultaneous."

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Leading article, page 23



Damon Hill kisses his wife Georgie after capturing the world championship title at Suzuka yesterday

Hill takes title at last chance

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN SUZUKA



Hill: enjoying the moment

DAMON HILL wrote a new chapter in motor racing history yesterday when he clinched his first Formula One world drivers' title and emulated the achievement of his late father, Graham, 28 years after his "old man" last won the championship.

Hill, 36, started the Japanese Grand Prix needing to finish sixth to make sure of a title that has eluded him so narrowly for the past two years. He knew it would almost certainly be his last chance after the Williams team's decision to discard him next season. But he calmed the nerves of the millions of television viewers who got up in the early hours of yesterday to cheer him on by leading from beginning to end.

Hill's victory completed a giddy rise from London motorcycle courier average performer in lesser series to Formula One world champion and banished the aura of heroic and gentlemanly failure that had begun to hover over him after previous championship defeats at the hands of his nemesis, Michael Schumacher. His only challeng-

er, his Williams-Renault teammate, Jacques Villeneuve, another scion of a racing legend, Gilles Villeneuve, lost any realistic title chance when he made a bad start. Then he was forced to retire early after a rear tyre worked loose and flew off.

"This is going to take a lot of time to sink in," Hill said. "To have won the championship and a grand prix all in one race is a hell of a thing. At last, I have ended all the training and the preparations and the sleepless nights. My wife, Georgie, has had a lot of anxiety. There has probably been as much pressure on her as there has on me."

Georgie joined Hill in post-race celebrations, racing down the pit-lane to hug him as he climbed from his car. She had been unable to watch most of the 53 laps despite his dominance. Afterwards she said: "All the sacrifices, everything we have been through, is worth it now. He has done it with huge dignity and I am really proud of him."

Like father, like son, page 3
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Ministers vow to ban handguns at home

By Andrew Pierce, Valerie Elliott and Shirley English

THE official report into the Dunblane massacre will be presented to the Prime Minister today as senior ministers made clear that they were determined to ban the keeping of handguns at home whatever Lord Cullen recommends.

Lord Cullen's 200-page inquiry report is expected to stop short of urging an outright ban on handguns as demanded by the parents of the children killed by Thomas Hamilton. But in a concession to the powerful Dunblane lobby, ministers are expected to recommend a tighter security regime at private gun clubs and stricter licensing procedures.

The prospect of concessions comes as Dunblane parents consider whether to break the political truce on gun control and make it an

election issue if ministers do not accede to their wishes for a total ban. Ann Pearson, organiser of the Snapper Petition, whose speech to the Labour Party conference reduced some delegates to tears, may stand as a candidate against Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary's Stirling constituency includes Dunblane. He has a 703 majority.

However, moves are afoot to bring in tough new gun laws in addition to a ban on possession at home. One senior Government source said last night: "We are looking at compelling private gun clubs to introduce spot checks and metal detectors at the entrance and exits to ensure that people do not leave with handguns. A total ban is unworkable. But we can seriously

Continued on page 2, col 4

Actress Beryl Reid dies at 76

By Lin Jenkins

BERYL REID, the actress considered by many colleagues to be one of the most versatile performers of her generation, died in hospital yesterday after contracting pneumonia while recovering from a knee operation.

At 76 she was still working despite having suffered for some time from the bone disease osteoporosis, which left her reliant on canes. Robert Luff, her radio and television agent for 30 years, said her death would be a huge loss to British audiences. "She had been recovering very well since the opera-

tion on her knees about a month ago. I was hoping she'd be starting work again soon.

"There were several parts offered to her but we didn't know when she would be well enough. It's definitely fair to say she was one of Britain's best-loved actresses. I think her colleagues and audiences will be very upset by the news."

Miss Reid had had another operation on a knee last year, but refused to retire from the stage. "I would not know what else to do," she said recently.



Beryl Reid: versatile

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Hill's grand prix triumph mirrors father's 60s victory

By AUDREY MAGEE,
OLIVER HOLT
AND ADRIAN LEE

DAMON HILL'S mother toasted his Formula One triumph with champagne yesterday and said his late father would have been proud. Bette Hill spent a sleepless night at her son's Irish home before watching the race live on television. The BBC was expecting its biggest early-morning audience since the Olympics.

The victory brought back memories of the two championships won by Graham Hill, in 1962 and 1968.

Mrs Hill, 67, enjoyed a celebratory lunch at a Dublin restaurant. Her grandchildren, Oliver, 7, Joshua, 5, and Tabitha, 16 months, were dressed in Damon Hill T-shirts as they watched a video of their father's finest hour. Their favourite moment was the champagne cork popping. "I do not normally watch him on television but I could not get to sleep so I got up and watched," Mrs Hill said. "It is tremendous for him. I am very proud of what he has done. His dad would have been very proud as well."

She admitted that the last few months had been tense as Hill's early lead in the championship had dwindled. Her husband scored his first Formula One championship in similar style 34 years ago.

Graham Hill secured victory in the final race, in South Africa, when his great rival Jim Clark had to retire. Like his son yesterday, he went on to win the race.

Mrs Hill had stayed at home then, too. "It was too expensive to travel over there. There was not the type of money in racing that there is today. When my husband won it was in South Africa and South America: there was no way I could go there. I stayed at home with the children."

Damon's wife, Georgie, watched the race in the Williams motorhome at the trackside with the television turned on but the sound turned off. "I had my head buried in a towel. I just could not bear to look," she said.

She never doubted her husband. "It has been Damon's dream to do it. Thirteen years ago, when we were living in a basement flat, putting 50 pence pieces into the meter, Damon went to a driving school, had a great time and said he wanted to get into Formula One."

"He stuck totally to his dream and slogged his guts out to get there. He started from nothing but at no point in that time did I ever doubt he would do it. He is the most determined man you could ever meet."

Damon was a toddler at the time of his father's first triumph, in a B.R.M., and only eight years old when he was number one again, in 1968, in a Lotus. The Times of Decem-



Damon Hill was a toddler at the time of his father's first Formula One triumph, top, but shared his love of the sport from an early age. The young Hill and his mother, Bette, could often be found at trackside, bottom right



ber 31, 1962, recorded his victory. "He completed the 82-lap 200-mile race at an average speed of 93.57mph. For three quarters of the race J Clark, the other contender for the world title, led from Hill in the V-8 Lotus-Climax. But on the sixty-second lap an oil leak forced his retirement."

Damon Hill was still a schoolboy when his father was killed in a light-aircraft crash near the family home in Hertfordshire in November 1975. A few months earlier

Graham Hill had announced his retirement from racing. Although the death of her husband, and ensuing law suits over the air crash, left the family with little money, Mrs Hill paid for her son's first racing lesson and entered him for his first competitive race, at Brands Hatch in 1980.

To earn money Damon worked in 1983 as a despatch rider for the West One company in London. Yesterday Jeffrey Rinterband, the general manager, said: "I'm pleased

he did so well, it makes you proud to be British. He's one of those really nice people that you can't say a bad word about."

The Prime Minister was among the first to offer his congratulations. "Damon has driven superbly this season and thrilled the country. His victory is very well-deserved. He takes his rightful place in a distinguished line of British grand prix champions."

The success was also hailed by staff at Hill's former school,

Haberders Ashes, in Elstree, Hertfordshire, where Damon gained eight O levels and three A levels. Dr John Wigley, who taught him economics, said: "When he was at school he was known for being extremely polite and considerate to everybody. I think that's followed through in the way he has behaved all the way through the championship. He has been under a lot of pressure, but he never said anything unpleasant about the other drivers. It has been the behaviour of a perfect gentleman throughout."

Doug Yesbyle, who taught him chemistry, said: "Damon's much quieter than his father, but has his mental and physical toughness."

Stirling Moss, the former motor-racing champion, said the new champion was "probably better than his father."

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How The Times reported Graham Hill's success in South Africa in 1962

ONLY SECOND BRITON TO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

From Our Special Correspondent

EAST LONDON, Dec. 30
Both the 1962 world driver's and grand-prix racing car manufacturers' championships were claimed for Great Britain by G. Hill, the 34-year-old London driver, who won the South African Grand Prix in his eight-cylinder works B.R.M. here yesterday. He completed the 82-lap 200-mile race at an average speed of 93.57 mph.

Princess eclipses Sun as Italians catch royal fever

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

DIANA, Princess of Wales basked in the adulation of the Italian public yesterday as she received a humanitarian award for her work with hospitals and healthcare charities.

She pledged also to be the pensioners' Princess as she took up the banner for the elderly in her acceptance speech before an audience of prominent figures from medicine, business and entertainment at the Adriatic resort of Rimini.

The guests included Christiana Barnard, the heart transplant pioneer, Nicholas Negroponte, the American digital communications guru, and Rosy Bindi, the Italian Minister of Health.

But the Italians were interested only in the Princess as

she laughed and chatted to Professor Barnard and only occasionally looked bored during the longer medical speeches. Her own speech was reserved for the elderly and the danger of ageing. "To regard old age as a disease is to waste one of our greatest resources," she said. "To look down on the elderly as something out of touch is to disregard the fount of both wisdom and experience. We would be foolish to do this."

Accepting the Pio Manzu Gold Medal, the Princess said she wanted to share it with all those working in care for the sick and the old. "An ageing population puts increasing pressure on availability of treatment," she said. But it was dangerous to think of old

age as an illness, when in fact it was "a precious resource of wisdom and experience". "Social harmony exists when young and old have respect for each other," she said to enthusiastic applause.

During the conference the Princess comforted Professor Barnard when he momentarily broke down as he told a moving story of a patient who died. Professor Barnard said his young black patient had regained consciousness to ask for some bread to eat. "He died with the bread in his hand," the surgeon said.

Italian newspapers have covered the Princess's every move. "Diana even puts the Sun in the shade," *La Stampa* said, noting that her arrival had coincided with an eclipse.

Pensioner dies in store scuffle

By JOEL WOLCHOVER

A PENSIONER suffered a fatal heart attack during an altercation in a supermarket car park. Gordon Edwards, a 71-year-old retired businessman from Darlington, Co Durham, collapsed and died after a grapple with a fellow shopper in the car park of his local Morrison's supermarket. A 44-year-old man was arrested and later released on police bail until December. A file is being prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service.

According to police, Mr Edwards had just unloaded his shopping into his car and was returning his trolley when an angry exchange broke out with another motorist who was arriving at the store. He was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

Rantzen cleared of misconduct

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ESTHER RANTZEN has been cleared of professional misconduct by a BBC investigation into a programme that led a *Panorama* journalist to accuse her publicly of "twisting the facts".

The inquiry into *The Rantzen Report* followed a newspaper article by John Ware condemning Ms Rantzen for "misleading and fundamentally untrue" claims about the British Home and Hospital for incurables in Streatham, south London. Her programme in August used a hidden camera to allege neglect of a brain-damaged patient at the hospital.

Mr Ware is understood to have failed to get full clearance before making his attack in *The Sunday Telegraph*. A

BBC News source said: "If one is going to write a piece, then normally this piece would be properly cleared. In this case it wasn't."

In a memorandum to John Birt, the Director-General, and others, Ms Rantzen suggested that Mr Ware breached his contract by criticising her in print. The BBC has accepted that he wrote the article because he considered the hospital had been a wonderful home to one of his friends. *The Rantzen Report* was investigated by the BBC's programme complaints department, which visited the hospital. Ms Rantzen said yesterday: "I am confident, as I always have been, that our journalism was fair and accurate."

For sale: letter that doomed Mary, Queen of Scots

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT



Mary's death ordered for national security

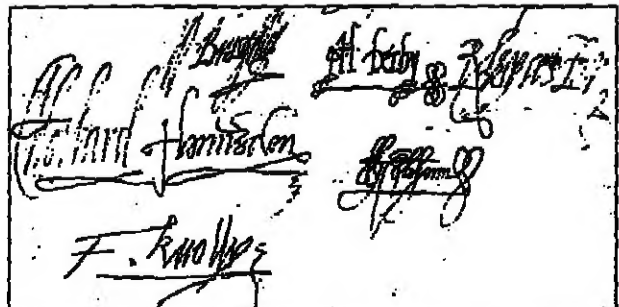
A LETTER signed by Elizabeth I's Privy Council ordering the execution warrant on Mary, Queen of Scots is to go on sale. The letter, among a collection of 16th-century state papers to be auctioned by Sotheby's, is described by its manuscript specialist as "one of the decisive documents of Elizabethan history".

The clerk of the Privy Council, Robert Beale, delivered the letter to the Earl of Kent and then to the Earl of Shrewsbury, who was appointed to preside over the execution at Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire. The 1587 letter urges "howe

needfull it is to have the proceeding herein to be kept very secret and upon what occasion no word of that our Commission are at this time used herein".

Peter Beal, the manuscripts specialist, said: "This is as close as we are going to get to the actual execution warrant, which has disappeared. This is one of the decisive documents of Elizabethan history. It is the most famous execution in Elizabethan history. The Earl of Essex execution warrant survives in the British Library: this one is far more politically dynamic."

The state papers collection



Signatories to the 1587 Privy Council document

was last on the market in 1946. It is expected to fetch more than £100,000, with the letter alone making £30,000, during an English literature and history sale on December 16-18.

Mary had been impris-

oned for nearly 20 years when the letter was written and her death seemed essential for national security. But it was to prove one of the most momentous decisions made by Elizabeth. Dr Beal said that after the deed had

been carried out "there was huge controversy and recriminations. Elizabeth exonerated herself by claiming the warrant of execution was dispatched without her permission. William Davison, her secretary, became her scapegoat; she blamed him for sending the execution warrant before she was ready. He was tried, convicted and imprisoned."

"She lost her nerve and panicked. But disposing of Mary led to the Spanish Armada. The political implications of this was phenomenal." As well as Davison, the signatories included Lords Burghley and Leicester, Sir Francis Walsingham and Sir Christopher Hatton.

Briton is killed as funicular crashes into wall

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A BRITISH tourist died and another was critically ill last night after a funicular crashed into a wall at the bottom of a cliff when a cable snapped.

Two other Britons were among 16 injured in the accident in Quebec City, Canada. The funicular car plunged 25ft at an angle of 45 degrees after breaking free near the end of its downhill run on Saturday. An emergency brake failed to stop the car, which hit the wall of an entrance and exit booth.

The dead Briton, a woman aged 47 and believed to be from London, died yesterday in hospital. Another woman was critically ill with internal injuries and multiple fractures. A 60-year-old woman was being treated for leg injuries and a man, 30, for foot, leg and arm injuries. Names were being withheld until next of kin were informed.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that the Britons involved were not thought to have been related. He said that early details of the accident suggested that the carriage had fallen quite a distance after the cable snapped.

Police in Quebec City said that the other victims were from the United States and the French islands of St Pierre and Mequeleon. Fourteen passengers suffered fractures, bruises and shock while another victim was more seriously hurt. The victims ranged in age from 30 to 72.

Marcel Audair, an eyewitness, said: "It was a dreadful mess. People were piled on top of each other. I saw right away that the cables, which are normally in the centre, weren't there any more."

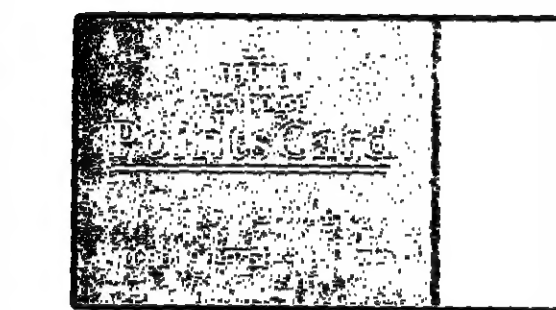
Gilles Drolet, assistant director of Quebec City police, said: "The hardest part was getting out the people who were trapped."

Andre Morin, manager of the Otis Canada branch that handles maintenance on the line, refused to speculate on the cause of the accident. He said that the cable car was not overloaded but could carry 19 or 20 people. He said that his firm was co-operating with the official investigation into the incident and also conducting its own inquiry.

Built in 1879, the railway carries thousands of tourists a year from the historic lower town to a cliff-top viewing point. A one-way trip normally takes around one minute and offers a view of the city area and the St Lawrence river.

The system, which was renovated in 1978, is privately owned and electrically operated, with two cable cars running in opposite directions. It runs all year round but is busiest during the summer.

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Bishop in attack on 'amoral' government

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING Church of England bishop yesterday condemned the "amoral" nature of government and warned that society was heading towards "moral chaos".

The Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, called for Parliament to be subject to a convention of human rights to offset what he described as "the dangers of the doctrine of untrammelled sovereignty". His sermon, to members of the Midlands and Oxford judiciary at the annual judges' service at Birmingham cathedral, came weeks after the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, spoke out in favour of incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law.

The reform is strongly backed by Labour but Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has given a warning that to enshrine the convention would draw judges into the political arena.

Bishop Santer, reiterating criticisms he has made before of the market economy, said the convention was needed because Parliament was no longer subject to the "unquestioned sovereignty of God and His law". Instead, society was

ruled by the philosophy that "everything is tradeable and ultimately has a price".

Hence, "the attraction of the utilitarian ethic which reduces right and wrong to what is useful for survival, or the common view which allows majority opinion to be the judge of right or wrong."

"The sovereignty of Parliament was a tolerable idea for as long as it was recognised as subject to the unquestioned sovereignty of God and his law," he continued.

"But if God and his law are no longer taken for granted, and if the sovereignty of Parliament is subject to no other moral constraints, we could be on the way to moral chaos in the public sphere. That, I believe, and this is a social and moral judgment, not a political one — is one of the strongest arguments for the acceptance of a convention of human rights to which Parliament itself would be subject."

He "condemned a climate where, he said, 'individuals come first, and society second, and that moral rules are at bottom simply a matter of convenience and self-interest'."

He added: "The utilitarian view, which is ultimately amoral, has taken deep roots in the presuppositions of modern society. But it is wrong. It flies in the face not only of revealed religion but also of human nature." The Bishop, while taking care yesterday to emphasise that he was not singling out the current Government for criticism, is regarded as unacceptably left-wing by many in the political establishment.

Previously he has described greed as a national institution, and in 1994 said the Government's health service reforms were "morally wrong".



Bishop Santer in his diocese yesterday

Parish pays tribute to stance on gay love

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

PARISHIONERS yesterday rallied round Anne Atkins, the vicar's wife who attacked the Church of England's stance on homosexuality, as they attended her husband's Sunday service.

Both young and old in the congregation at St Dionis Church in Parson's Green, southwest London, were united in their support for Mrs Atkins's views, and made a point of congratulating her for speaking out as they mingled over coffee after the service.

They pointed out that there always had been, and would continue to be, homosexuals present in the congregation who were welcomed into the church. "We have people from that background here," said Jenny Whittle, who has attended St Dionis for nearly 20 years. "And they're still here."

Many of the younger parishioners also made a point of congratulating Mrs Atkins. Trevor Addenbrooke, 27, said: "I support her stand that God's wish is for sex to remain within marriage. It is difficult to live by your faith... but someone has to make a stand."

The Rev Shaun Atkins said he hoped that ultimately his wife's stand would clear the way for constructive debate. Mr Atkins is a member of Reform, a conservative evangelical group concerned with the issue of homosexuality and sex before marriage. It considers chastity the sole alternative.

Traditional choice for vicar in choir row

BY JOHN SHAW

THE vicar who lost half his choir in a dispute about modern hymns hit back at critics from his pulpit in rural Norfolk yesterday. The Rev Andrew Parsons, 43, spoke out in a sermon during a service at which five traditional hymns were sung.

Some members of the choir at St Mary's, Wroxham, objected to the words of *Autumn Days*, with its references to bacon frying and jet planes flying. Mr Parsons said: "I do not seek to outlaw traditional hymnody, but to supplement it. It is no good saying there is no music after Elgar."

"You can't have a diet simply of hymns ancient and obscure if you are to welcome children, and goodness knows we need to welcome children. Not because they are the Church of tomorrow; they are the Church of today."

A parish church, particularly in the countryside, had "the role of a GP surgery, open to all comers". The whole point of *Autumn Days* was that people should give thanks for what was around them, he said. "And it needs encouraging in children in their own terms, in their own language."

The congregation of 38 applauded when Mr Parsons made Jamie Barron, 14, acting head chorister. Hymns sung by the mixed choir of seven children and three adults, half the usual number, included *Fight the Good Fight*.

Second meteorite gives hint of Martian life

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A SECOND meteorite from Mars has shown structures that suggest life but it is too early to reach conclusions, according to a scientist from Nasa, the US space agency.

Dr David McKay, of the Johnson Space Centre at Houston, said: "We have some very preliminary evidence that encourages us to look at other meteorites. But what we have seen is very weak and is not something I would want to speculate on."

An American news programme reported that the

scientists had suggested they had found possible cell structures, something that was absent from the first meteorite studied. But Dr McKay said that he had second thoughts. "I misspoke," he said. "I would like to pull back on that."

The new evidence comes from a meteorite much younger than that which Dr McKay's team said in August had shown evidence of Martian life.

Scientists are studying at least 12 meteorites that have been identified through chemical tests as originating from Mars.



Susannah York and Beryl Reid in the 1969 film *The Killing of Sister George*

Actors pay tribute to Beryl Reid, 'one of the best'

BY LIN JENKINS

THE actress Beryl Reid, who died yesterday aged 76, was remembered as one of the outstanding comic actresses of her generation by her friends and colleagues in show business.

Her talent shone through despite a lack of formal training, and the twin handicaps of dyslexia and stage fright.

Dame Vera Lynn said she was one of the most enduring actresses as well as one of the most versatile. "She was somebody who was so completely different and a terribly funny lady. I was always fascinated by her work. She was very well thought of in the business for so many years with so much success."

Miss Reid devoted her life to her trade, choosing not to have children and seeing both her marriages fail through the demands of her job. As one of the best known voices on radio and recognisable faces on television, she embraced her profession fully, revelling in performances both on and off the stage.

She loved to entertain, and

in doing so, often set out deliberately to shock. A decade ago, when awarded an OBE, she responded by saying she hoped it would be a good year for sex. Such behaviour endeared her to her friends and to audiences over six decades. Ernie Wise, the veteran entertainer, recalled: "I was in variety with her for a very long time. She was always a sort of cheeky girl and the public liked her very much. I am very sorry that she is no longer with us. She was a beautiful performer."

Barbara Windsor said: "She was a very talented lady, superb, one of the greatest and best." Ian Bannen, who starred alongside Miss Reid in the television version of *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, said: "Beryl had such a wonderful range of emotion and was as good as any actress, including Peggy Ashcroft. She will leave an enormous hole in the British theatre."

Obituary, page 25

£25m help for dance and drama hopefuls

BY DALYA ALBERGE

BUDDING performers will be helped to afford places at accredited dance and drama schools in a £25 million plan to be announced today by Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary.

The three-year scheme is intended to subsidise the tuition of about 1,000 students as a response to repeated cries for help from the arts and education sector.

Grants for dance and drama courses are discretionary. Funding constraints mean that some authorities provide a "reasonable" amount of support, a number offer a token amount and others cannot spare anything.

With funding from the Department of Education topped up with lottery cash, money will be distributed by the Arts Council. Instead of cash-strapped local authorities having to find £6,000 or £7,000 to support a dance or drama student, they will have to find only £1,000, a comparable figure to any other area of study. The scheme will run from next autumn 1997.

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Holiday couple tell of their terror after tourist boat capsizes in tropical storm

We were left to drown in sea of sharks, say Britons

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

TWO British holidaymakers described yesterday how they were left to die in shark-infested African waters when a tourist boat capsized and the skipper sailed away in another vessel without them.

Eddy Chambers and Joan Garratt had expected a pleasant day's snorkelling in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Zanzibar, but only 45 minutes after setting off they were left clinging to the upturned shell of the 10ft dugout after it capsized in a violent storm.

The skipper, promising to go for help, swam off to the safety of a boat on the distant horizon, but it turned for shore and left them. The couple,

with their godson and his fiancée, were left in the water with no apparent chance of help. They were rescued when a fisherman spotted them from the coast. Only later did they discover that they had been sharing the ocean with great white sharks.

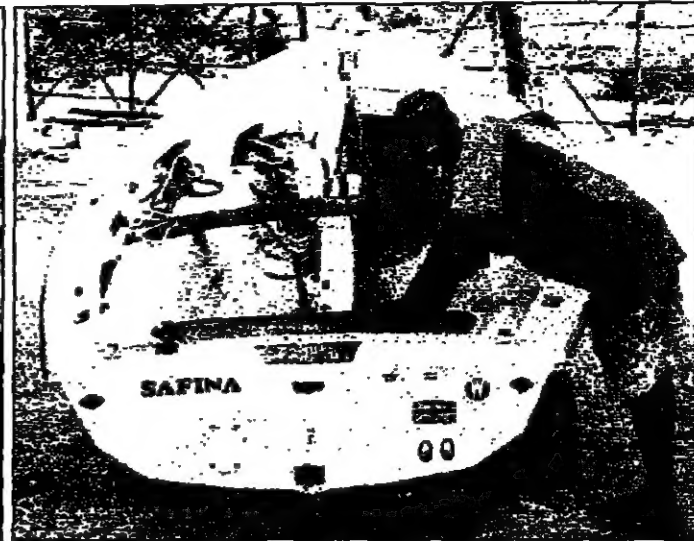
The couple, from Duffield, Derbyshire, were in Zanzibar visiting Mrs Garratt's godson Phil Richey, who is working for Voluntary Service Overseas in Tanzania. Together with his fiancée Paula, they decided to take a snorkelling trip off the north-east coast.

"It was a bit rough and a bit windy, and the skipper said he would wait until the wind had dropped," said Mrs Garratt, 55, a retired teacher. "I don't think he would normally have taken us out but he wanted the money. It actually turned out to be too rough to snorkel, and we were turning round to head back to shallower waters when he got a line snagged round the outrigger and the boat capsized."

The passengers, including three other Britons and two Africans, were all flung into



A boat of the type that capsized while carrying Joan Garratt and Eddy Chambers, below, who were rescued by this fisherman, below right



the water. Mrs Garratt said: "It was very scary. I thought, 'Thank goodness we can all swim'."

"The skipper gathered up the floating snorkel masks and started swimming for a distant sail, and we assumed he was going for help. We all cheered when he made it — but then the boat just turned

for shore and left us, and we never saw him again."

"I think he was scared he was in trouble. We were left stuck in an empty sea, clinging to a ropey boat, and the storm was getting worse."

"It was getting rougher and rougher, and colder and colder. I honestly thought we would just get tired, slip into

the water and die. To stay alert we sang songs, like 'If You're Happy and You Know It Clap Your Hands' — which was a bit daft, because if we had clapped we would have slid off the boat. We were all getting very tired."

It was only when a fellow tourist began waving his brightly-coloured shirt in

sheer desperation that they were spotted from the coastline by a fisherman. "I think he was the only man on the shore with binoculars. He had a dinghy and a small fishing vessel and he came out to rescue us. That was pretty hairy in itself as the boat was very flimsy and it seemed like it was going to capsize too. I've

never been so grateful to be on dry land."

After they returned, the couple saw a map of the area with the words "white sharks" written across where they had been floundering.

Mrs Garratt said: "I'm sure that to have known that at the time would have concentrated our minds wonderfully."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flu vaccine urged for all over-65s

GPs are being urged to offer flu vaccine to everyone over 65 in a report that contradicts official government advice that it should be reserved for people with chronic illnesses.

The NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination says research shows that vaccinating all older people is "a cost effective way of reducing flu-related deaths and illness," and that Britain is out of step with the US, Canada and most European countries.

Boy injured

A boy aged eight suffered a skull fracture after he and a 12-year-old fell from a moving fire engine. They climbed on as the Liverpool crew put out burning rubbish. The younger boy's condition was serious but not life-threatening.

Murder charge

A man has been charged with the murder of Jane Crowe, 32, who was found asphyxiated in a cupboard at her home in Norwich. The 34-year-old man, who has not been named, will appear before Norwich magistrates today.

Hollow ring

A supervisor handling a British Gas national customer helpline was sacked and 20 temporary staff given final warnings after their pub lunchbreak in Solihull lasted nine hours. One woman stayed at work.

Ambulance death

Greater Manchester Ambulance Service is investigating why an ambulance driver lost his way between hospitals. A heart patient needing urgent surgery died on the 28-minute journey but it is not known if the delay was a factor.

Driving ban

Captain Mark Phillips was banned from driving for seven days after admitting speeding at 73mph in a 40mph limit in Malmesbury, Wiltshire. He was fined £140 and awarded six penalty points.

Solihull couples prefer fidelity to aerobics

By DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SOLIHULL has emerged as the marital stronghold of Britain. The middle-class mecca of the West Midlands has a higher percentage of married couples than any other town — nearly 74 per cent of its population, almost 8 per cent more than the national average.

It is closely followed by Wirral, Doncaster and Colchester, a survey discloses today. The marriage-failure

capital is Burnley, which has almost three times as many divorcees as the average town. Widows and widowers tend to head to the South Coast for companionship, especially preferring Brighton and Worthing, while London and Edinburgh have the highest proportion of single people.

The research was carried out by the market analysts Claritas among 100,000 people. A former mayor of Solihull offered a reason for its marital success: "We haven't, unlike a lot of other

boroughs, provided facilities for people to do things," Eric Pemberton said. "We haven't got a lot of sports facilities. People have been left together more. They haven't been dragged apart to do different things."

Mr Pemberton, 66, who has been married for 37 years, says that his neighbours tend to leave each other to themselves. "This is the essence of Solihull. There aren't a lot of parties where you might find yourself in bed with somebody else's wife."

Whistle firms come to blows

By LIN JENKINS

A BRITISH firm is defending before a Canadian court its claim to have developed the first peapless whistle.

The Birmingham-based company J Hudson & Co, whose Acme Tornado was used for Euro 96 matches, says its patent for the multi-chambered whistle was first lodged in 1909. The Canadian

rival claims that the British whistle infringes the patent on its product, developed in the 1980s.

Fox 40 International of Ontario has filed a federal court action against J Hudson & Co and its Canadian distributor, A Conway Beacham Ltd. Ron Foxcroft, president of the Canadian company and a former basketball referee, claims he and Chuck Shepherd, an in-

dustrial designer, developed the peapless whistle after his conventional one failed at a critical moment during an international game.

J Hudson & Co, which produces four million whistles a year for 137 countries, has been the world market leader since 1870 when its founder, Joseph Hudson, sold the idea of the penny whistle to the police.

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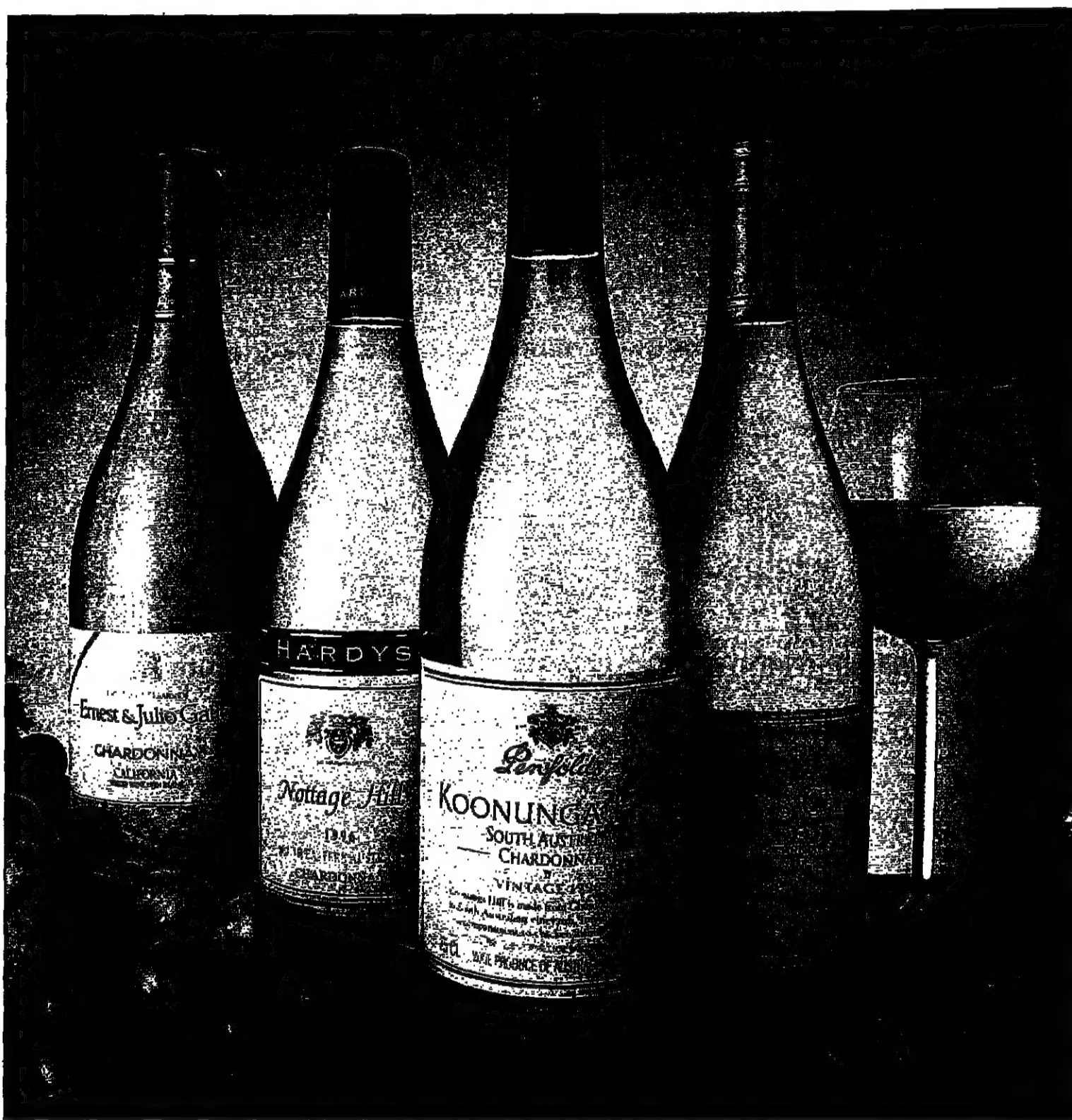
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■ Sainsbury's current *Wine Without Worry* promotion makes it easy to try a different wine, too, on a "like it or take it back" basis. This month over 70 different wines are reduced in price, so it's an ideal time to treat your tastebuds to something special.



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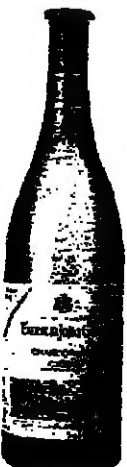
Penfolds Koonunga Hill Chardonnay, £4.99. A combination of grapes from premium vineyards produces an intense, peach-like flavour with soft oak characters derived from barrel maturation. Rich and complex in style, excellent when young and fresh, it also matures well.



Jacob's Creek Chardonnay, £4.99. This wine combines premium fruit from cooler vineyard areas with the rich fruit character of grapes from warmer regions. The result is an outstanding example of a full-flavoured Australian Chardonnay combining rich fruit character but with a subtle oak flavour.



Nottage Hill Chardonnay, £4.99 Its light golden colour is enhanced by hints of green. Tropical fruit aromas such as paw paw, melon and pineapple are complemented by ripe fruit and spicy oak characters. A full-bodied, rich and flavoursome wine to be enjoyed young and fresh.



Gallo Chardonnay, £4.49 Medium bodied, with fresh citrus and apple aromas and flavours, and delicious served chilled with poultry, fish, pasta or other light savoury dishes. This wine, by America's largest producer, is the most popular Californian Chardonnay sold at Sainsbury's.

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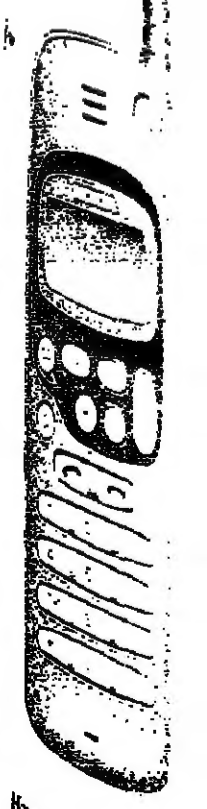
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Teachers bring back traditional classes for primary tests

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TRADITIONAL teaching methods are making a comeback in primary schools as a result of the Government's national testing regime. Research published today shows increasing numbers returning to regular tests, whole-class teaching and grouping by ability.

Primary school children told researchers that they enjoyed the national tests for 11-year-olds, introduced in 1993, because the classroom was quiet for once and they had time to think.

The London University research found the tests, which run every summer in English, mathematics and science, were forcing schools to concentrate on the three Rs. Teachers were abandoning "progressive" approaches such as mixed-ability lessons and cross-curricular topic work.

Professor Caroline Gipps, dean of research at the university's Institute of Education, said: "There has been a

return to the more traditional style of approaching teaching. It was quite clear teachers were being forced into this through the national curriculum.

"About half the teachers we asked were doing more of the traditional didactic form of teaching as opposed to letting the children work in groups or get on with individual work. They were doing this because there was so much content to get through.

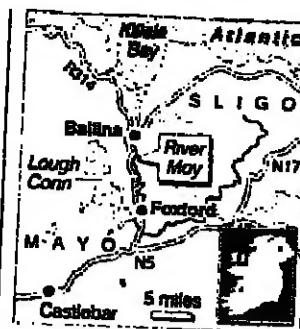
There is no doubt this is a more efficient way of trying to impart the content and knowledge than giving children worksheets and letting them work away on their own."

The independent research project by Professor Gipps and Margaret Brown, professor of mathematics education at King's College, London, was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. The findings are likely to be seized on by supporters of the traditional teaching methods.

Interviews with children provided another discovery. Professor Gipps said: "We visited all types of schools. From the children, one over-riding comment was that what they really liked about the tests was everyone was quiet and they could think."

The research concentrated on 32 schools from different areas. It found 14 had changed from mixed-ability teaching to placing children in groups by ability, and 14 had introduced regular, formal testing. Eight had moved away from cross-curricular topic work towards more subject-based teaching and there was a greater focus on reading and spelling.

Thirty teachers with expert training on problem pupils have been formed into a Behaviour Support Network by Kent County Council, ready to provide swift advice to schools. It is hoped that the plan will help to reduce the number of cases ending in expulsion.



One mile of salmon river may fetch £10m

By AUDREY MAGEE

A MILE and a quarter of one of Europe's best salmon rivers could be sold for as much as £10 million.

The Foxford Fishery on the River Moy, in Co Mayo, northwest Ireland, has been in an Englishman's family for 50 years. Charles Baker's father, Colonel George Baker — known as Bobby Baker — bought part of the Moy in 1946 as a place of retreat.

Mr Baker, 47, who lives near Petworth, West Sussex, is now selling for personal reasons which, he emphasises, have nothing to do with finance. He will retain fish-



Christopher Downey, who looks after the Foxford Fishery, where almost 1,000 salmon were caught this season

ing banks up and downstream from the fishery. "I reckon it is the best best in Ireland," he says. Mr Baker says he has a minimum price in mind and will not sell until it is reached.

In Scotland, the price of a river is fixed by the number of salmon caught in it. Each fish adds about £7,000. Over the past five years six rods on

the Foxford Fishery have yielded an average total of 647 salmon each year.

Applying the Scottish guide to Ireland, the fishery is worth about £4.5 million. But the price may go as high as £10 million, as salmon catches have been steadily increasing. This year's season from February to September yielded almost 1,000 fish.

Traditionally the Irish have placed more value on farmland than on their rivers and lakes. When the various Land Acts from 1870 onwards were passed, the Irish concentrated all their efforts on securing farmland from English and Protestant landlords. The landlords usually retained sporting rights to the land, which allowed them

to fish rivers like the Moy. The Central Fisheries Board believes the sale of the Foxford Fishery will determine the market value of leisure fishing in Ireland. Local people will tonight hold a meeting in Foxford to see if they can persuade the Government to buy the stretch of river. Inquiries are already pouring in.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Meningitis 'link' shows GPs' caution

THE number of cases of bacterial meningitis this year is predicted to be greater than last, when it was the highest for 20 years.

Doctors and parents have been disturbed to read reports that there was an apparent correlation between the number of antibiotic prescriptions issued in a town, and the number of reported cases. Research has shown that doctors in the so-called cluster areas — where meningitis is depressingly common — issue more prescriptions for antibiotics than do colleagues in places where meningitis is less of a problem. One antibiotic in particular, erythromycin, was prescribed in noticeably greater quantities than would be expected.

Fortunately, resistance to the appropriate antibiotics has not yet become a trouble treating bacterial meningitis when it is caused by meningococci. There have been suggestions that antibiotics in general, and erythromycin in particular, could in some undiscovered way predispose patients to developing meningitis.

It would seem reasonable to

expect that in a low-risk area, a doctor might well first respond to the child's problems by murmuring about "a virus" — something going around — and recommend paracetamol. It might well equally be considered foolhardy for a doctor in an area where meningitis was common to procrastinate and recommend conservative treatment.

The most likely explanation for any association between the increased use of antibiotics and the number of cases must be that doctors are being cautious, and not the result of some bizarre change in the immunological system.

Parents' anxiety will not be resolved until either a vaccine is produced against meningococci group B, or the reason is found why such a common bacterium only rarely causes active disease. In the meanwhile, wise doctors will continue to consider that many ill children could have meningitis and, when other circumstances make it appropriate, prescribe with this in mind.

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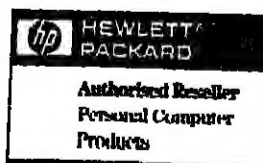
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Patten urges end to 'preposterous' quarantine rules

By Valerie Elliott
Whitehall Editor

CHRIS PATTEN yesterday urged the Government to scrap the quarantine system. "Like thousands of diplomats, service and business families around the world, I feel the present British quarantine rules are preposterous," the governor of Hong Kong said.

"And yes, I have told the Prime Minister what I think. There is just no scientific basis for them and they risk cruelty to animals. But with new safeguards we can get rid of the rules without undermining public health."

He hopes that Britain will reach a cross-party consensus on the issue before his term is forced into kennels next summer. His Norfolk terriers Whisky and Soda are treated as celebrities in rabies-free Hong Kong — they have even featured in Chinese cartoons.

Mr Patten said he received more letters about the British quarantine regulations than any other issue and believed scrapping the system would win votes. The present arrangements were not working because many families could not afford quarantine and were smuggling their pets into the country, he said.

He wants a reform with a wider application than countries of the European Union. "I think it would be very curious if they applied it just to

THE CASE AGAINST

■ Quarantine is costly and upsetting to pets and owners, which could increase the temptation to smuggle animals

the EU and not generally. Provided the animals carry a microchip, have been inoculated, have a certificate and are tested on arrival in Britain, it should not make too much difference which country they came from."

Mr Patten and his wife, Lavender, are taking the precaution of considering which quarantine kennels they might have to use. Their bill would be considerably less than that for the British High Commissioner to Cyprus, who has 14 cats and a dog. David Madden and his wife, Anthea, are already worrying about the cost, even though he has another two years in his post.

The couple will seek new homes in Cyprus for some of their cats but intend to return to Oxford with at least five cats, the dog and a bill for £8,000. Mrs Madden said last night that she hoped the Government would change the regulations.

"Of course we have always accepted the quarantine rules. But I do think now it is encouraging that there seems to be another way to prevent rabies from getting into the

country. From our point of view, and everyone else with animals, the sooner the rules are changed the better."

Expatriates in Cyprus want the Government to exclude the island from the regulations because it is free of rabies. It is understood, however, that Ministers believe this would be impractical.

The Maddens have lived with the quarantine rules for many years and have undergone forced partings from family pets as they travelled to and from Britain via Germany, Moscow, Athens and Yugoslavia.

Mrs Madden, a teacher, said in Nicosia: "We made a conscious decision to have pets in the family. We did not want to give them up — our children have always enjoyed having the animals at home. But the quarantine fees have been something we have had to budget for. When we were in Moscow, I ran a home-school for a group of children to meet the costs. We decided that everything I earned would go towards the quarantine."

Leading article, page 23



Eileen Thompson with her surviving dog, Winston, and a picture of Sadie, who died in quarantine

'Cruel system killed my Sadie'

By Valerie Elliott

A WOMAN whose dog died in quarantine believes there should be legal recourse for owners against what she believes is a cruel system.

Eileen Thompson, from Watford, Hertfordshire, has just returned to Britain after her American husband retired from a military career. She blames stress for the death of her 11-year-old pet Sadie, which was part Span-

ish chihuahua. Her second dog, Winston, has completed his quarantine but she said he had lost some of his animal skills and found it difficult to communicate after their months apart.

Mrs Thompson said: "A lot of people suggested we should just smuggle our dogs into Britain and I was very tempted. But I decided we should do things legally. I had no idea what little rights quarantine gives to the owner. You cannot even make a

complaint to the Consumer Council. I really blame the Ministry of Agriculture. They do not have to have quarantine."

Her complaint is against the system, not the kennels — Hill Farm in Leighton Buzzard — nor the staff. Sadie was about halfway through her quarantine when she developed breathing difficulties and kennel staff asked permission for a vet to treat the dog. The vet gave her a 20 per cent chance and then asked if

he could put her down. Mrs Thompson said: "I asked to see her first and drove to the kennels the next day, but there was nothing to be done and the dog was haemorrhaging."

"I think it was stress. She had a full physical before she left the States. Even Winston, who is now home with me, is not 100 per cent."

"He appears to have lost all his animal social skills and for days found it difficult to communicate."

Smugglers defy law for love or money

By Valerie Elliott

THOUSANDS of pets are smuggled into Britain each year because families cannot afford quarantine fees or because they are opposed to their animals being caged.

Many of the law-breakers are pet owners who have vaccinated and blood-tested their animals and can prove they are rabies free. But the real threat comes from unscrupulous pet owners who smuggle an animal without vaccines from countries such as India or Pakistan where the virus is rampant.

The Quarantine Action Fighting Fund, a voluntary campaign run by June Hamilton from her home in Chichester, has launched proceedings for a judicial review against the Ministry of Agriculture about the present quarantine rules. A High Court hearing is likely in January. The argument is based on the issue of proportionality — that the law is out of kilter with the level of threat.

The most common way to smuggle a pet into Britain is to hide it in a car. A woman who has smuggled a dog through customs on three occasions said that she felt no guilt about breaking the quarantine law. "I know my dog hasn't got rabies and I can prove it," she said.

Some people, she said, could afford the quarantine fees but did not want to lock up their animal for six months. "I have heard of people willing to pay thousands of pounds to avoid putting their pets in quarantine. Sometimes they will pay others to drive a pet home to Britain. The minimum rate for a short journey is £500 and that would cover the cost of a fine in a magistrates' court if caught."

She said she had heard of people chartering a plane or boat to take their pets. Others moving back to Britain from abroad sometimes made private deals with drivers of removal firms to conceal the pet among furniture.

Prosecutions are mounted under the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, and Other Mammals) Order 1974. The maximum fine in a magistrates' court is £2,000 but a case can also be heard before a jury if "there is evidence of deliberate intent". The penalty in a High Court is an unlimited fine and a maximum one year's prison. In addition, an animal may be destroyed.

An Austrian who brought his Irish red setter into Britain on a business trip was fined £500 at Chichester Magistrates' court on Friday for contravening rabies laws.

Kennel owner points finger at globetrotting pet lovers

By Michael Hornsby
Agriculture Correspondent



Guy Tamplin's kennels house up to 150 pets a year

UP TO 150 dogs and cats pass each year through the Precious Pet Valley quarantine kennels at Newham, Gloucestershire, generating gross earnings of about £200,000 for Guy Tamplin, the owner.

Mr Tamplin takes a dim view of proposals to scrap the quarantine system, not simply, he says, because such a change would threaten the business in which he has invested £800,000 over ten years. He thinks the Government would be misreading

THE CASE FOR

■ Abolition of quarantine would leave the nation dependent on officials and vets abroad enforcing the new system properly

public opinion and taking an unwarranted risk.

"A lot of the pressure for ending quarantine comes from what I would call café society — rich people who, say, have holiday homes in France and would like to take their dogs back and forth with them," he said. "I very much doubt that most pet owners or

the public at large would like to see quarantine go."

Mr Tamplin is chairman of the Quarantine Kennel Owners' Association, which represents 33 of the 72 authorised quarantine kennels in England and Wales. He is angered by what he sees as the unfair media portrayal of most kennels. "There was a big fuss recently when the dog of a Danish diplomat died in quarantine. It is always sad when a well-loved pet dies but this was a 13-year-old animal with kidney cancer. How any reasonable person could blame its death on quarantine is beyond me."

The survival rate of pets in quarantine, Mr Tamplin says, is better than outside. Last year 117 of the 9,520 dogs and cats that went into quarantine in Britain died during detention, a mortality rate of 1.2 per cent. The national death rate was 10 per cent.

Mr Tamplin's kennels have played host to some of the Royal Family's pets. There are 50 units for dogs and 28 pens for cats set in a fenced enclosure on the side of a wooded hill. Each unit can take up to three animals, provided they

belong to the same owner. Each of the cement-floored dog units has an indoor sleeping area of up to 36 sq ft, with a raised platform serving as a bed which can be heated from underneath. There is an adjacent outdoor exercise yard of up to 160 sq ft, enclosed by low stone walls topped by wire-mesh fencing. The units have to be hosed down and disinfected every day. A vet visits the kennels six days a week.

Mr Tamplin's basic boarding fee for a large dog, such as a Labrador, is £1,170. The airport handling fee, transport to the kennels in a sealed van and vaccinations bring the total to about £1,740, including VAT. The equivalent figure for a cat is about £1,290. Mr Tamplin has just spent £16,000 on new white-tiled cat quarters, designed to let in maximum sunlight. Each pen has wooden climbing ramps and radiators.

Mr Tamplin would like quarantine kennels much more tightly regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, which will license any kennel that meets the basic security requirements. Pet importers are warned by the ministry that "the amenities provided are matters entirely for agreement between the animal's owner and the proprietor."

It is only in the past year that a voluntary code of welfare practice, setting out minimum standards, has been introduced for kennel owners.

RSPCA inspectors have no right of access to quarantine kennels and veterinary superintendents are appointed by the kennel owners.

There has been no proven case of rabies in any of the 200,000 dogs and cats imported into Britain in the past 25 years. "I agree the risk is small and that a system of vaccination and blood tests could be just as good in theory," Mr Tamplin said. "But we would be dependent on officials and vets abroad enforcing the system properly, particularly as regards animals brought into the European Union from rabies-endemic areas."

Mr Tamplin cites the case of a 20-week-old dog imported from Turkey into Düsseldorf, Germany, last year without proper checks. The puppy developed rabies and was put down. Health authorities then had to trace 192 adults and 78 children who had come into contact with the dog and give them anti-rabies injections.

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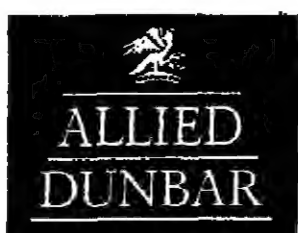
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VISA

Britain has proven success against rabies, officials say

By Valerie Elliott

THE most solid support for maintaining tough quarantine rules has always come from the Ministry of Agriculture. Officials believe the system has a proven record and they are not convinced that Britain would remain free of rabies if quarantine was lifted.

They say quarantine has protected the British people from a horrifying disease that kills thousands in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Keith Meldrum, the chief veterinary officer, has examined alternatives but he wishes to ensure they are foolproof. MAFF wants to seek assurances that rabies would not transfer to farm animals and is also uncertain of the public's reaction to any change.

There is concern that people would not have confidence in a new system, and would demand vaccines if they were bitten by a dog. Officials also wonder if it would be necessary to impose a compulsory vaccine after dog bites.

Until recently, the British Veterinary Association and the quarantine kennel owners have opposed change but even this opposition has thawed.

They are open to consider sensible alternatives, or even a shorter period in quaran-

line, as a first step. The most vocal opposition is likely to come from MPs representing coastal constituencies. David Shaw, Tory MP for Dover, said last night that he would oppose any change to the present strict regime. "It will be very costly and I do not see why the taxpayer should pay for the checks that would be necessary on passports for pets. All the evidence I have seen shows there is no reliable alternative to quarantine."

MAFF has been grappling with the issue for two years after a report by the all-party Commons Agriculture Select Committee, which advised a switch to vaccination and tagging for the movement of pets within Europe and between rabies-free countries. Vaccination is the practice in other European countries, allied to a microchip "passport" implanted under the skin.

MAFF is concerned that some pet owners would bypass stringent rules and that a racket in fake pet documents would flourish.

However, there is some sympathy for a cautious, step by step approach. Two years ago Britain signed the Balai agreement to abandon quarantine for commercially traded dogs and cats and to replace it with a certificate process.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Gorbachev: Why I did what I did

Your chance to question his policies

As President of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev set in motion some of the most far-reaching events in 20th-century history. It was his vision

that led, ultimately, to the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism in the East.

Times readers can hear his account of these and other vital episodes in his life at a Times/Dillons forum on Tuesday, October 29. In conversation with Timothy Garton Ash, the celebrated chronicler of the end of communism in Eastern Europe, Mr Gorbachev will discuss, through an inter-

preter, his remarkable career, and answer questions from the audience. The forum, marking publication of Mr Gorbachev's *Memoirs* (Doubleday, £25), will be held at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1, at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Mr Gorbachev's

book, are available by phoning 0171-467 1613, by placing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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هكذا من الأصل

Wales's last bastion of dry Sabbath awaits its fate

Poll will decide if drink can be sold on Sundays

By IAN MURRAY

AS HE has each Sunday since he became landlord 11 years ago, Robert Jones, 55, kept the doors of his pub firmly shut yesterday and watched some of his regulars go past on their way to a local four miles away. His pub, The Ship, with its old beams and Routier-approved restaurant is a favourite with gourmet diners and real-ale drinkers. Unfortunately for Mr Jones it is in Porthmadog, the grey granite frontier town to Dwyfor, the last district in Britain where it is still illegal to sell strong drink on a Sunday.

This week the Home Office will announce the date for the last local referendum to be held in Wales on whether alcohol can be sold on Sundays. It will probably be on November 13. Whatever the outcome, the result will be binding for all time.

"I lose 12 months' trade every seven years the way it is at present," Mr Jones says. "But the essential point is freedom of choice. We are not trying to force people to have a drink on a Sunday if they don't want to. But why should the dries force abstinence on law-abiding people who want a drink with their Sunday lunch?"

The rest of Wales has voted to go "wet" in referendums held every seven years since 1961 but the remote Llyn Peninsula, where there are twice as many churches and



Robert Jones, at Porthmadog, closes down for the weekend on Saturday while barely a mile away Bill Evans at The Griffin toasts the busiest day of the week

causeway joining dry Dwyfor to wet Meirionnydd, Bill Evans runs The Griffin hotel in Penrhynedeudraeth, the closest pub to the border. On Sunday evenings the bars can get so full he has to shut the doors and only let new customers in when others leave.

"It's by far the busiest day of the week and it's quite exhausting," he says. "The landlords on the other side don't know how lucky they are to have a day off when they can be with their families or play golf. I almost think I'll vote to go dry so that I can join them."

The referendum will not be confined to Dwyfor because since last April the district has been merged with Meirionnydd and Arfon to form the unitary authority of Caernarfonshire and Merionethshire. The two other districts voted to go wet 14 years ago but must now vote with Dwyfor and the

result will be binding on all three of them.

Not every bar in Dwyfor is dry. Clubs are allowed to sell drinks to members, which means golf and yacht club lists are full, working men's clubs and the British Legion have staunch support and the Conservative club in Pwllheli reputedly has more members than the party has local voters. In addition, the mini-cab trade is brisk on Sundays.

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Garden detective on trail of rogue growers

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SCOTTISH researcher has been given a £180,000 European Union grant to develop DNA "fingerprints" of plant varieties in an attempt to stamp out fraud that is flourishing in garden centres across Europe.

Growers who have spent years developing exotic varieties believe unscrupulous dealers are taking hundreds of cuttings and selling them under different names to avoid paying royalties.

Dr Kirsten Wolff, of the School of Biological and Medical Sciences at the University of St Andrews, said: "At the moment growers can't prove that a plant on sale is a copy." In France, figures

showed that up to 80 per cent of cultivars on sale could be illegal cuttings. "It could be much less here, we simply don't know," she said.

Dr Wolff, in collaboration with laboratories in Germany, Holland and France, will concentrate initially on the pelargonium, which accounts for 5 to 10 per cent of garden centre sales in Europe. Growers may use the results of her results to control a new scheme that would give licences to greenhouses permitted to raise the new varieties. Once the DNA fingerprints of the protected varieties are available, identification should be possible cheaply and within 48 hours.

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Maori MP holds key to New Zealand coalition

FROM JO ANDREWS IN AUCKLAND

NEW ZEALAND is without a new Government after its first election under mixed-member proportional representation. Politicians are warning that it will take weeks to sort out a coalition after elections held on Saturday.

The man who holds the balance of power, Winston Peters, the populist leader of New Zealand First, went out sailing yesterday to review his political shopping list and refused to take calls. He holds enough seats to put either Labour or the National Party into power. His advice to the other political parties was "calm down". He said: "It is a bidding process. That's what it is all about."

Nobody knows which way Mr Peters will jump. He has announced that he will set up a negotiating team composed of party members, a lawyer and a professional mediator to hammer out a deal. Mr Peters has long been a thorn in the side of the major party lead-

ers. In a generally sober political scene he has become one of the most colourful and outspoken figures.

David Lange, the former Labour Prime Minister, when he was asked for his view of a Labour/New Zealand First coalition, said: "What sort of rabbit invites myxomatosis into its burrow?" On another occasion, when Mr Peters was late, Mr Lange accused him of being "detained by a full-length mirror". Until recently even the mention of his name angered Jim Bolger, the Na-

tional Prime Minister. Yet nobody in New Zealand doubts Mr Peters' tenacity and his adept political skills.

Mr Peters is a Maori from a big northern tribe, Nga Puhi, and yet he grew up speaking only English. He is one of 11 children and was born in a small town in the far north of the North Island. His father was a farmer and the family grew up in modest circumstances.

Yet at a time when Maoris flocked to vote Labour, Mr Peters became a National MP in 1978. In a prescient moment Sir Robert Muldoon, then National Party Prime Minister, dubbed him "a future leader of the National Party". In many senses Mr Peters is Muldoon's natural inheritor. He certainly draws much of his populist support from that section of the public once known as Rob's Mob: older, white New Zealanders who oppose the recent growth in Asian immigration, who re-

sented seeing foreign business buy New Zealand land. That, plus strong support from Maori voters, who have deserted Labour en masse at this election, has handed Mr Peters the balance of power.

Although Muldoon was right in predicting leadership for Mr Peters, he got the party wrong. Mr Peters did become Maori Affairs Minister for the National Party in 1990, but then fell out with the leadership, publicly opposing the right-wing drift in economic policy. He has never liked the level of charges New Zealanders face for healthcare and tertiary education. He also wants to see an end to the tax introduced to claw back state pensions from the elderly. These are the areas of common ground with Labour.

Helen Clark, the Labour leader, said last night: "I'm not counting my chickens before they are hatched. Everything depends on Winston now." Labour's share of the vote was



Winston Peters, "reviewing his shopping list" and staying away from the telephone, on his yacht off Tauranga yesterday.

six points down on the last election, but analysts think Mrs Clark has a marginally better chance of forming a coalition with Mr Peters than the National Party. His policies of reducing immigration

by a third and banning land sales to foreigners will be stumbling blocks if he insists on them.

Mr Bolger, the leader of the National Party, who is now a caretaker Prime Minister,

went to church with his wife yesterday. His vote held up remarkably well, dropping by only 1 per cent since the last election. He also has by far the largest number of seats in the new Parliament. He said:

"Winston Peters clearly has a key role to play in the formation of any new government, unless it is to be a minority government." Observers do not expect him to give up power without a fight.

RESULTS

With some votes still to be counted, the results are:

	Seats	% of vote
National Party	44	34.0
Labour	37	28.0
New Zealand First	17	13.0
Alliance	13	10.0
ACT	8	6.1
United	1	0.9
Christian Coalition	0	0.5

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Australian MP issues civil war warning

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA is heading for civil war unless it ends immigration and special funding for Aborigines immediately. Pauline Hanson, an Independent MP, said yesterday.

Mrs Hanson's outburst comes after her claims last month that Australia was in danger of being swamped by Asians if immigration numbers were not curbed. Her comments have sparked an outbreak of racial intolerance that has split the Government and seen Asians spat at in the street.

Mrs Hanson said yesterday that Australia's present "separatist" policies towards migrants and Aborigines could lead to violence between different races. "When you look at what is going on in Ireland, Bosnia, Rwanda - civil wars because of different races, different cultures - that is what I do not want to see in this country. Everyone should be treated the same," she said.

Although John Howard, the Prime Minister, has said that he rejects racial intolerance, he has also refused to criticise Mrs Hanson directly, in the belief that it would give her views added prominence.

Amnesty appeals for world court

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMNESTY International today launches a world appeal to establish a permanent International Criminal Court by 2000, which it says could prevent the mass human rights violations seen this century.

Pierre Sané, the Secretary-General, said: "Since the UN was set up, millions of people have been detained in concentration camps, tortured, raped, bombed in undefended villages, towns and cities, deported, disappeared or been victims of extrajudicial executions or mass exterminations."

Amnesty argues that these crimes are of universal jurisdiction, under which any state is duty-bound by international law to bring those responsible to justice when they are found within its territory or under its control.

The UN has two international tribunals examining war crimes and genocide in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Mr Sané welcomed these as a step-gain, but said crimes against humanity in Argentina, Cambodia, Iraq and Liberia have largely gone unpunished.

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Republicans start to give up on Dole as hopeless cause

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ANGRY conservative Republicans began publicly abandoning Bob Dole at the weekend, and even the candidate conceded that he may lose America's presidential election three weeks from tomorrow. "I'm prepared for that," Mr Dole said in a remarkable admission. "If we work hard and do our best and lose, it's not what we want but it's something I could accept."

Yesterday's conservative Weekly Standard magazine bluntly declared that "barring the possibility of some freak event or act of unprecedented self-destruction by Bill Clinton, this year's presidential campaign is over".

It called the Dole campaign "incompetent", said Mr Dole and his running-mate, Jack Kemp, had "failed to fulfil their responsibilities as party leaders", and issued a warning of a "serious risk that the Dole-Kemp ticket will spin through its drain with sufficient deadly speed to suck the entire 1994 congressional revolution right down with it". It urged Republican congressional candidates to distance themselves from the ticket.

The Dole campaign labelled William Kristol, Editor of the Standard and a leading Republican strategist, "the first rat", but Martin Mawyer, head of the 250,000-member Christian Action Network, delivered an equally scathing attack in The Washington Post. He accused Mr Dole of abandoning Christian conservatives in a futile quest for



ELECTION '96

centrist votes. His consultants had nowhere else to go but "we don't have to go anywhere to guarantee a Democratic victory. All we have to do on election day is stay home, and that's what an increasing number of pro-family, born-again voters plan to do".

Mr Dole meanwhile summoned his advisers to an urgent strategy session in Washington, and agreed that although the Clintons' private lives should remain beyond the bounds of the campaign, they would start aggressively attacking ethical lapses at the White House. The Dole campaign seized on new newspaper disclosures that Mr Clinton and the Democratic Party accepted huge, possibly illegal, contributions from Indonesian businessmen in return for Oval Office access.

"This will make Watergate look like a tea party," claimed Scott Reed, Mr Dole's campaign manager. The President has been

soliciting money from foreign nationals? The greatest power in the world being rented to foreigners? This is a scandal that has historic implications," declared Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker.

Senator John McCain, a top Dole adviser, demanded that a special prosecutor investigate, but Al Gore, the Vice-President, insisted that the contributions were legal. Mr Kemp, who angered his party by refusing to attack the President in last week's vice-presidential debate, recalled that Mr Clinton had promised "the most ethical administration in history". He continued: "Four years later, the words that seem to characterise the ethics of this Administration are words like Travelgate, Filegate, independent counsels and possible presidential pardons".

Those problems added up to "a pattern that is sad and troubling... An arrogance of power. The avoidance of responsibility. The habit of half-truths. For this Administration taking credit is everything and the truth is expendable."

To date the "character" issue appears no more damaging to Mr Clinton than it did in 1992. Voters seem concerned only with his performance, and on Saturday he trumpeted new FBI figures showing that the crime rate had fallen to its lowest level in a decade. Murders fell by 8 per cent last year and violent crime by 4 per cent.

Chinese dissident foils police and escapes to Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ONE of China's most tenacious dissidents, Wang Xizhe, has escaped a police dragnet and is sheltering in Hong Kong.

Mr Wang, whose campaign for democracy dates back 22 years, had arrived in the British colony and was expected to leave soon. Robin Munro, the Hong Kong director of Human Rights Watch/Asia, confirmed last night.

Mr Wang, who was wanted in China for collaborating on a petition with Liu Xiaobo, a Tiananmen activist and former prisoner who was sentenced last week to three years in a labour camp, is said by friends to be awaiting possible entry into the United States. His wife said yesterday that she knows her husband was safe but did not know his whereabouts. He disappeared from his home last week after Mr Liu was detained.

Their petition, published last month, demanded that President Jiang Zemin be impeached for violating the constitution by stating that the army was subject to party and not state control. Mr Wang, 47, a Cantonese factory worker, is a veteran petitioner and political prisoner. In 1974, two years before Mao's death, he was jailed for five years for pasting up with

two colleagues what is probably the longest wall poster in recent decades, calling for an end to Maoist repression.

In 1981 he was rearrested for what was called sedition, issuing counter-revolutionary propaganda, inciting the masses and disobeying state decrees. Sentenced to 14 years in 1982, he was released two years early in 1993.

In May, just before the anniversary of Tiananmen on June 4, while he was with his wife in a restaurant near Canton, Mr Wang was arrested and detained for 15 days for violating his parole by being too far from home. He was also detained for a month the previous year.



Elizabeth Taylor, taking part in one of dozens of events in Washington at the weekend to focus attention on Aids, reads aloud some of the thousands of names of people who have died because of the illness (Martin Fletcher writes). The actress led 150,000 people in a

Actress joins Aids march

candlelit march from Capitol Hill to a rally at Lincoln Memorial. An Aids Memorial Quilt was laid along Washington's Mall for the first time in four years, and the half-million people who viewed it were either shocked into silence or reduced to tears. Begun a decade ago in San Francisco, the vast and harrowing patchwork now consists of 40,000 individual quilts commemorating about 70,000 of America's 350,000 Aids victims. Another 2,000 sheets had been added since Friday alone, and the quilt stretched a full mile, from the Capitol to the Washington Monument. It has grown so large that it may never again be displayed in its entirety.

New York's 'last great saloon' reaches the end of the bottle

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE "last great saloon" of America has closed. The Lion's Head Tavern in New York, where a young Bob Dylan played in a back room in the Sixties and where a generation of writers snatched their scribbling thumbs, closed at the weekend after the sort of rent increase that can turn a man to drink.

Regulars used to include Norman Mailer, the writer, Ed Koch, the former Mayor, and Jackie Mason, the comedian. Pete Hamill, the writer, in his memoirs *A Drinking Life*, said of The Lion's Head: "I don't think New York bars

ever had such a glorious mixture of newspapermen, painters, musicians, seamen, ex-communists, priests and nuns, athletes, stockbrokers, politicians and folk singers, bound together in the levelling democracy of drink."

The last bourbon was poured on Saturday night, after a busy evening which saw old-timers drop in for one last "swift" (as Michael Rordon, the landlord, said: "The rent is too high - simple as that"). The Lion's Head opened in 1966 and, with its neighbour The Village Voice newspaper, set the off-beat

tone for Greenwich Village and Christopher Street.

Pretentious was never a prerequisite at the Lion's Head, either from the clientele or the bar. It was dingy and smoke-filled and the air was sticky with lost dreams. Such places were once de rigueur in New York, but their place has been taken by designer coffee bars or theme restaurants with dud atmosphere and toothpaste-charm bartenders.

The future of the site was not immediately known, but it will probably be turned into a Hispanic bodega or a health food store.



Blondin: 1859 crossing was the first of many

Tightrope walker to tackle Niagara

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A CANADIAN highwire artist will attempt to become the first man for a century to walk across the Niagara Falls on a tightrope, emulating the Victorian performer Blondin.

Jay Cochrane, from Toronto, intends to walk a more hazardous route than his French 19th-century predecessor. His tightrope will be slung between buildings on the American and Canadian sides, and will pass 765ft directly over the brink of the falls. Charles Blondin made a lower, shorter crossing.

Cochrane, 52, who last year crossed a gorge over China's Yangtze River, will make his attempt next year. "I am prepared for it and everything will be perfect," he said. "The rigging will be perfect, the weather will be good, and it never rains on my parade."

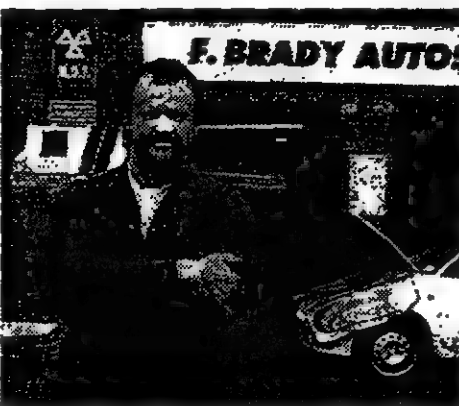
"I don't want people to be nervous for me because I know what I am doing. Of course it is dangerous. Life is dangerous."

In an agreement with local authorities, he will pay for his own insurance. They, in turn, have promised to let no other highwire walker cross the falls for a century.

No one has walked the Falls since 1897, when local authorities wearied of the foolhardy amateurs who sought to imitate Blondin. The Frenchman himself made increasingly daring crossings, going blindfold, by bicycle, tossing an omelette en route, and even taking his petrified manager on his back. Blondin - real name Jean Francois Gravelet - died in his sleep aged 73.

□ Cable car crash: A British tourist died after a cable car broke loose from its tether and hurtled into a wall near the bottom of its steep run. Fifteen other people were hurt when the funicular railway car, which runs between Quebec City's historic lower town and a cliff, broke loose on Saturday afternoon. Police would not disclose the identity of the 47-year-old woman from London until next of kin were notified.

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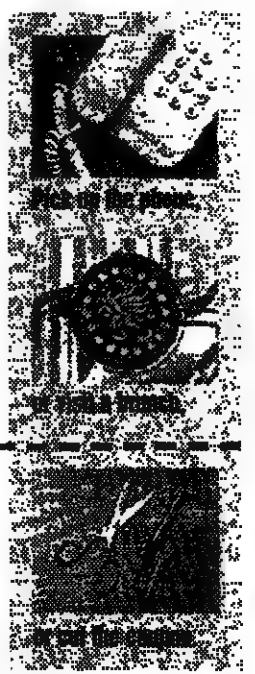


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Street-by-street fighting denies vital forward supply route for overstretched Islamic militants

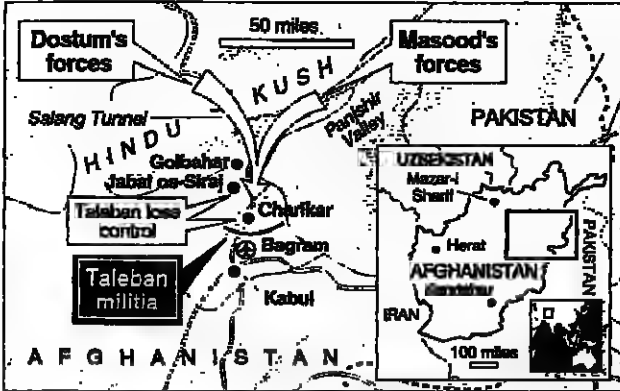
Taleban loses its grip on two Afghan towns

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN KABUL

A SECOND town north of Kabul, the Afghan capital, has fallen to the forces of General Ahmed Shah Masood, the commander of the former government forces, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources said that Charikar, a 90-minute drive north of Kabul, fell late on Saturday after five hours of fierce fighting between General Masood's forces and the Taleban Islamic militia, which drove him from the capital two weeks ago. They said it fell a few hours after the general took Jalal os-Siraj, the Taleban frontline headquarters town at the mouth of the Salang Pass through the Hindu Kush mountains.

The loss of the two towns has cut off a crucial supply route to Taleban's forward troops. This is a disaster for the fighters, who have been decisively beaten back from their assault on forces of the



former Government in the Panjshir Valley and from the Salang Pass.

There was fierce close-quarters street fighting in Charikar, and if its fall is confirmed, the setback would leave Taleban little option but to fight its way back to Kabul, which is heavily fortified. The Bagram airbase near Charikar is also under attack, although Taleban said last night that it was still under its control.

International aid agencies have made plans to move expatriate staff from Kabul if fighting reaches the city. Military analysts believe it will not fall easily, however, unless Taleban loses its nerve and takes flight. General Masood will probably not use artillery against the capital because of the inevitable civilian casualties. Of all the combatants, he is the least likely to ignore the cost to human life.

Taleban has barred journal-

ists from the front line, presumably because it does not want its losses seen. It is increasingly hostile to reporters: a television cameraman had his camera smashed, a photographer narrowly missed being hit on the head when a brick was thrown at him and a gunman threatened to kill some international news agency correspondents if he saw them again.

Taleban, which controls three-quarters of Afghanistan, has plainly spread its forces too soon. It underestimated the power of General Masood, a renowned guerrilla fighter against the former Soviet Union. The mood in Kabul is tense, although the streets are busy. There are fewer Taleban forces in the capital and the tanks that stood on street corners, some decorated with tinsel and plastic flowers in a gesture of peace, have disappeared. Both men and armour have presumably gone north. There is trouble elsewhere for Taleban, too. The country's



Afghan refugees flee fighting north of Kabul, as aid agencies make plans to withdraw their staff from the city

most important military airbase, at Shindad, near the western city of Herat, has come under hit-and-run attacks. The military map of Kabul could see big changes in the next weeks or months.

Taleban's dream of raising its plain white flag throughout the country is now dead and the priority is to hold on to existing territory. It is certain to face subversive activity in Kabul. The soldiers' tension is

demonstrated by the constant rattle of gunfire and the sound of weapons being tested.

There are many wounded Taleban fighters in Kabul military hospital and there have plainly been many

deaths. The warriors pitched themselves against men who are fighting on their own turf: General Masood's soldiers, who come from the nearby Panjshir, know every track and hill.

Kabul terrified by regime of the lash

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

KABUL suddenly fears its Taleban rulers. Seventeen days ago the fighters were greeted as liberators: now they are hated as persecutors. The shoot-on-sight curfew has been moved forward an hour to 9pm, a sign of panic as the Islamic army loses its grip on the city's one million people.

It feels isolated in the capital, persecuted internationally, and under pressure on the battlefield. It is despised in Kabul for forcibly rounding up young men for war. Many youths have fled the city, fearing they will be recruited for frontline combat. Taleban's strict Islamic code is held in contempt and there is resentment of aggressive house searches for weapons and subversive literature.

A single-sheet underground newspaper has appeared: anybody found with a copy is certain of severe punishment. Kabul Radio, renamed Radio Shariat, announced that anyone found on the streets after curfew would be dealt with harshly — especially foreign journalists who were "misreporting the news".

Its pronouncements give the impression that criticism of Taleban amounts to criticism of Islam, a punishable offence. Most men in Kabul

resent orders to attend mosques five times daily — with a 20-lash penalty for non-compliance. Mosques have been given a list of men living in the area, and names must be ticked off each prayer-time by the mullahs.

Young men have been apprehended in the street and their long hair cut off — despite the shoulder-length hair favoured by Taleban fighters. Almost every private car, save for taxis, has been commandeered. The terror of bombing and shelling in the city has ended for now, but Taleban has replaced it with the terror of repression. Parents have begged foreign aid workers to find sons taken away during house-to-house searches. They said their distressed children had been told they were being given the chance to die for Islam.

Taleban's mood, friendly and buoyant when its forces captured Kabul last month, has hardened in part because of international hostility over its treatment of women. The fighters are mystified at the foreign reaction to its policies on women. "Does the West criticise Saudi Arabia for the way it treats women?" a senior civil servant and supporter of Taleban asks.

Vital Kurdish city is recaptured by anti-Saddam group

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

KURDISH rebels opposed to Baghdad recaptured their main stronghold of Sulaimaniya near the Iranian border yesterday and were reported to be fighting their way to the northern city of Arbil.

America was waiting last night to see whether President Saddam Hussein would intervene. United Nations sources said that Sulaimaniya, home to nearly a million people, fell to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) before dawn with virtually no resistance from Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) forces which had captured the city with equal ease last month.

The swift reversal brought a sharp shift in the balance of power in northern Iraq and surprised diplomats who now fear that the area will be plunged into more turmoil that could also suck in Iraqi and Iranian forces on opposing sides.

President Clinton launched punitive cruise missile attacks against Iraqi targets when Saddam's forces helped the KDP to overrun Arbil on August 31. The city's fall meant the collapse of a CIA-backed operation in northern Iraq aimed at toppling the Iraqi leader who was given a foothold in the rebellious region for the first time since the Gulf War when the Western allies established an air umbrella to protect the Kurds.

Iraqi leaders urged the warring factions to stop fighting, resume peace talks with Baghdad and to stay away from outside powers, an apparent reference to Iran. The KDP said it abandoned Sulaimaniya after a large force of Iranian Revolutionary Guards crossed the border in support of PUK forces and

had launched heavy artillery and missile bombardments. Massoud Barzani, the KDP's leader, called for international help against "Iran's brutal invasion".

The PUK said its forces had supported a "spontaneous uprising" by the residents of Sulaimaniya who "were rejecting Saddam's rule and the KDP's co-operation with him". The PUK denied it had received any Iranian assistance, but Western diplomats said it was likely that the faction had at least received logistical support.

Some opposition groups predicted the PUK would retake Arbil within days and there were reports of heavy fighting at strategic towns and villages between the two main cities. The PUK said it had recaptured the Dokun Dam, a crucial hydroelectric plant.

The PUK had been expected to regroup and make a comeback, but not so soon. It was routed last month and many of its senior officials, including Jalal Talabani, its veteran leader, were reported to have fled to Iran. "Sulaimaniya was always Talabani's territory and it will be hard to dislodge him now unless Saddam Hussein brings in his army," an Arab diplomat in Syria said.

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Women to trample all over them?

A NEW MAN'S LAMENT

Just because men's jobs are getting shakier than women's, and men now complain more about discrimination at work, and are more likely to be the victims of violence, are more stupid than women, more prone to disease, have shrinking sperm counts, and usually worse legs, don't assume this automatically proves that it has suddenly become a woman's world, or that men and women have just swapped their traditional roles.

And I'll tell you exactly why it hasn't: just as soon as I've finished hanging the washing on the line and sewn a few of these name tapes into the children's gym kit.

The reason that it hasn't suddenly become a woman's world is that it has always been a woman's world. You don't have to look any further than Italy and Japan, two of the countries most steeped in the spirit of machismo and the legend of the domineering male, to see that behind the veil they are hopelessly matriarchal societies. Even the biggest Sicilian Mafia boss whimpers like a wussy if scolded by his mum.

Every Japanese man's life is run by his wife: she even gives him pocket money every week from his own wage packet.

Like King Canute, we men have occasionally let ourselves be deluded into thinking that maybe it was we who controlled the tides, which worked fine as long as the sea was going out. But now the tide has started to come in we are being drowned by the evidence.

The Economist has just written a leader about man's losing battle to keep up. In his new film, *Multiplicity*, Michael Keaton duplicates his body in an attempt to spread himself around, and thereby create enough time for his wife, his work and his family. And this from the superhero who once played *Batman*.

Jack Lang, the French politician, has written a book called *Tomorrow Belongs To Women*, which shows just how blind people can be: can it only now have dawned on the French, a country whose premier male contribution to national culture is Johnny Halliday, that its women have always been its greatest asset?

Even man's unique selling point is losing its importance. A teaspoon of sperm is apparently enough to fertilise every woman in America. All you need is a healthy soccer squad, and some of those hotel kitchen staff who are skilled in portion control, and the future of the world's population would be assured.

Frankly, women's behaviour today seems just a little bit ungrateful, given how many trumps they already hold in their hand. You give women some equality, some social slack, remove the glass ceiling, and before you know it they think they can live quite happily, thank you, in a world without all those things men offer society, such as world wars, construction site bottom-cleavage, porn movies, DIY cupboards, that never close properly, inane armchair football commentary, and the selfless ability to wear the same shirt 12 days running if their wife hasn't yet got around to washing and ironing a clean one.

Women have to juggle only their job and their family. But we men today have to juggle our job, our family and our wife's career, which is pretty ironic when you think that women wouldn't even have careers if certain generous types (I'm not mentioning names, but it's a short word that begins with M and ends in N) hadn't been big-hearted enough to give them the vote in the first place.

Last week, for instance, I was left looking after our children when my wife went off to the Frankfurt Book Fair. There, publishers from every continent promote literature by running up huge entertainment expenses in the knowledge that, however big their hotel bills, they will still look teeny when accountants set them against the publishing industry's collective backlog of unearned authors' advances, which are roughly the size of Colombia's black economy.

Naturally, attending this event is a key part of my wife's job, which is why she diligently flies off to Frankfurt every autumn. But the important thing is that she feels confident about going because she knows that the children are safe in my hands, especially our one-year-old daughter, who is not yet tall enough actually to reach the front door handle. So obviously she must still be in the house somewhere, and will no doubt surprise us by turning up any day now in some amusingly unexpected corner, like under the sofa, or possibly northern Wisconsin.

Luckily, men are now well adapted to cope with this extra burden, and we pride ourselves in being particularly inventive when it comes to improvising — by, for example, using the colander-like drum of the washing machine when we can't find the spa-

ghetti strainer (be honest, when did you last come across a woman with the ingenuity to do that?), or bathing the children with their clothes on, thus saving time on running their laundry through the washing machine, which is anyway temporarily unusable because of a build-up of Daz-flavoured pasta.

It's not that we men expect any thanks for all this. After all they are our children, whom we chose to father even though we had the attractive alternative of using our manly gametes to repopulate the whole of North and South America instead. But have you noticed how many women now look on men with a glint of pity?

Women today actually feel superior to men. They will even go to great lengths to make men feel more inadequate than many already are. There is little doubt that it is women, writing under masculine pseudonyms, who pen all those articles in men's magazines like *Maxim* about how to bring your partner to multiple-orgasm: these articles come with step-by-step guides which would be of use in bedrooms only to men who have the fingertip dexterity of a watch repairer, the stamina of a whale, and a stretch of spare time they can earmark for sexual activity. If you're going to follow these guides thoroughly, it looks as if you have to set aside quite a lot of time. Like the whole of 1997.

On top of all this, we are expected to look like Brad Pitt, or Paul Newman, with washboard stomachs and a face so smooth that it has fewer flaws than a bungalow. Forget that shine on your shoes, do something about that shine on your nose. What a palaver! And it would be just too embarrassing if people overheard you on the phone every other day



Hollywood star Daryl Hannah takes the role of aggressive female to the limit

SHARING THE CARING

Oh dear, your photographer has just arrived," sighs Jack Gordon, a 53-year-old sports advertising consultant. "And I've got to pick Rufus up from school." You know that a chap's spiritual journey from overworked executive to New Man is complete when even an appointment with a *Times* photographer has to fit in around his four-year-old son.

Mr Gordon set up his own business in 1973, two years before he got married. Following the example of her own mother, his wife Jane stayed at their home in Chiswick to look after their two daughters, Bryony, now 16, and Naomi, 13, while he worked a 12-hour day. "At the start of any new enterprise you are enthusiastic and motivated, and I really wanted it to be a success," he recalls. "When we had Bryony, my lifestyle didn't change that much. Even Naomi's birth didn't have that great an impact."

He began gradually to rethink his life when his daughters had grown up. Then Rufus came along. "That was probably what set me on the road to Damascus," he admits.

"Before, I was used to having everything my own way. I put myself before others. I recognised that a new balance needed to be struck, and decided that I wasn't going to miss another opportunity to see my child grow up.

Perhaps it was because it was a boy, but I felt I could really be part of his life." Now he regards Sam to 5pm as a long day, and the children come first — he does the school runs at least three times a week.

That reassessment was well timed. A few years before Rufus was born, Mrs Gordon's career as a writer suddenly blossomed. Running around after the children was no longer feasible. So Mr Gordon found himself thrust into the throng of Volvos lined up outside school to collect the Gordon offspring, or cheering

them on in school races. "It was tough, actually, being among all those housewives."

Mr Gordon doesn't doubt that life for men is more stressful than ever before, because both men and women want satisfying careers. "Women don't just have aspirations, they have the talent to fulfil those aspirations," he says. "So it is not surprising that women are saying: 'Hey, I earn money too, so I want you to take more responsibility at home.'"

The aggressive, power-house atmosphere in the

extra holiday, and keeping the kids in private schools, required two incomes.

Mr Gordon thinks that is why men have got no option but to take responsibility. "When you have children, you still have to finance the lifestyle to which you are accustomed, and then you have the children's education to think about. So you both still need to work. In which case, it is not acceptable for the man to turn around and refuse to take on responsibility. But it does mean being all things — worker, husband and father

at once. Luckily, we do seem to be shifting from the harsh old days into the caring Nineties."

The success of his wife has eased the change. Mrs Gordon has signed a lucrative publishing deal and had her latest book optioned for a film. And Mr Gordon's Chelsea-based business, which handles Fred Perry sportswear, is doing well.

Despite this, he suffers the occasional pang over his change of lifestyle. "I had been chasing this client for six months, and he called me this morning. But the kids held me up and I wasn't here when he called. I was in such a state. Luckily it all worked out OK but you do wonder if people think you're not doing your job."

Ask Mr Gordon about his son and you discover that, for years, he must have been a New Man trapped in red braces. "I have taught Rufus to swim, ride a bike, and only last week I watched him score a goal. As I'm an advertising man, I have to say that those achievements reach the parts that others can't. There is simply no equal."

ANJANA AHUJA

TOMORROW

Why we still need feminism, by Maureen Freely

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booking facials, manicures, pedicures, and chest-waxes, which is why men soon learn that the smart thing to do is block-book a dozen appointments at a time, thus reducing the chances of anyone eavesdropping.

We always knew that British men were famous for their stiff upper lip, but it's only now that we have learnt that this condition owed less to sang-froid than to insufficient applications of moisturiser: come to think of it, the whole of the British Empire might have been built on nothing more intrepid than dry skin.

Women have even got men smelling as if they've got freckles tucked under their sweater — including those men who, only five years ago, would have struggled to work out how any chap could possibly dab toilet water behind his ears, without crashing his head on the cistern on the way up.

And still women moan, because they are the ones who have to give birth, conveniently forgetting the fact that they give birth at most a few times, whereas men have to shave every single day of their lives — an ordeal no woman has to suffer (apart from a very few former Olympic female athletes in Bulgaria).

All this doesn't mean that men are angry, or have to cower in the social wilderness; or that we have become somehow more feminine in order to cope with the new sexual arithmetic of the 21st century. Men are bigger than that.

It's not as if we want Boots to expand its range of men's facial moisturisers, or to start stocking special men's hand creams. We're really not interested, and you know why? Because frankly a dab of Nivea does the job just as well.

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Shock for cosmologists □ Cancer tests

Scientists hit galactic G-spot

One of the most bizarre features of the Universe has just been provided with an equally odd explanation. Three Mexican researchers believe that it is a variation in the gravitational constant, G , which explains why galaxies form distinct groups in the sky, placed 400 million light years apart.

The story began with the discovery in the 1970s by William Tifft, of the University of Arizona, that the speeds of the galaxies he studied were always a multiple of 72 kilometres per second.

He deduced this from red shifts, the shift in the spectrum of light which tells us how fast the galaxies are receding and, indirectly, how far away they are. Red shifts should be able to take any value, but Dr Tifft seemed to show they were "quantised" — restricted to certain values.

This appeared impossible, but more recent research by Bill Napier at Oxford and Bruce Guthrie of the Edinburgh Royal Observatory confirmed it. Explaining why is very tricky, unless you assume that red shifts don't really tell us anything about speed or distance, and that would undermine the whole basis of cosmology.

Now Marcelo Salgado, Daniel

Sudarsky and Hernando Quevedo of the National Autonomous University of Mexico have come up with another explanation.

They suggest, in a paper submitted to *Physical Review Letters* and reported in a recent *New Scientist*, that since the Universe formed, Newton's constant of gravitation has not been constant at all but has varied to and fro by a few per cent.

This suggestion would mean that the Universe's rate of expansion had varied, too, and caused the apparent clustering of the galaxies. The Mexican theorists go further.

They suppose that the Universe is filled with invisible subatomic particles called dilatons.

They then calculate the mass of dilatons needed to make G vary in the right way, and find that it neatly accounts for the Universe's "missing mass" — matter that ought to be there but can't be seen. What is more, the theory comes up with the right age for the Universe, and the right abundance of protons and neutrons.

"We were very surprised to see the numbers fit," Dr Sudarsky says. Not half as surprised as cosmologists are going to be if this model turns out to be true.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Turkey eggs to the rescue



TO CHECK whether chemicals can cause cancer, toxicologists usually have to rely on animal tests. Now researchers from the American Health Foundation in Valhalla, New York, and the German chemical company Bayer have come up with an alternative which is quicker, and which causes no pain — turkey eggs.

The suspect chemical is injected into the fertilised egg, which is then placed in an incubator. Eggs develop rapidly, the cells forming at great speed, so any chemical capable of disrupting the process is likely to do so. Four days before they are due to hatch, the turkey embryos are removed and examined for changes characteristic of cancer. The whole process takes less than four weeks, and once proven may save other animals months of testing.



Saluting old men: a 1974 Nobel laureates' gathering features winners past and present, including the Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn (bearded)

Give young men wings

Nobel prizes should be awarded for new fields of study, not longevity, says Nigel Hawkes

Nobody knows who invented the wheel. If only we did, he would be in line for a Nobel prize just about now.

Alfred Nobel specified in his will that his prizes be awarded to those who, during the preceding year, had conferred the greatest benefit on mankind. But that has long been something of a joke. This year's prize for physics, awarded last week, went to three Americans who did their work on superfluid helium more than 20 years ago.

That's nothing compared with one of last year's winners, Frederick Reines, who won his prize 40 years after proving the existence of the neutrino. In 1993 the accolade went to Clifford Schull and Bertram Brockhouse, for work on neutron scattering begun at the end of the Second World War.

These days, discoveries are in the textbooks and part of the undergraduate curriculum before the Nobel Committee has even got around to recognising them. The Swedish Academy of Sciences, which is responsible for the chemistry and physics prizes, argues that science cannot be judged too quick-

ly, but it surely doesn't take 40 years to decide that the neutrino is important. (True, Sir Harold Kroto, together with two Americans, won this year's chemistry prize for the discovery of new forms of carbon a mere 11 years ago.)

It wasn't always so. The prizes were first awarded in 1901, after protests by Nobel's family into the terms of his will had been set aside. In the early years the academicians were light on their feet, awarding prizes swiftly. Kammerlingh Onnes discovered superconductivity in 1911, and got the prize in 1913; Max von Laue discovered X-ray diffraction in 1912, and won the 1914 prize. The next year, William and Lawrence Bragg were awarded the prize for following up von Laue's discovery and inventing the technique of X-ray crystallography.

It is true that the committee dragged its heels over Albert Einstein, who won his prize in 1921 for work done in 1905, but it has always been slower to acknowledge

the work of theorists. If you want to win a Nobel Prize for Physics, don't trouble to rewrite Newton's laws, as Einstein did: find a new particle.

Does it matter that the Nobel prize has become the equivalent of the Order of Merit, an accolade for longevity? It does, because while it is nice to salute old men, it is much better to give young men wings. One major purpose of the prize is, or should be, the encouragement of a new field of study. What use to neutron diffraction was a prize to two old-age pensioners? The long delays are also unfair to those who die young, because the prize is never awarded posthumously.

Can anything be done to ginger up the prizes? They do go broadly to the right people, but too late. There is a simple way out of the difficulty, though I doubt it will appeal to the academy.

This year's prizes were worth \$6.7 million (£4.4 million) but

astonishingly it costs almost that much to work out who is going to get them. A sum of \$6.4 million was set aside by the Nobel Foundation "for tasks related to assessing candidates for the Nobel prizes".

That means the exhaustive process by which the committees trawl through research attempting to make a fair attribution of credit. It is strange that it should cost almost as much to administer the prizes as they are worth to the winners, especially when they are being awarded so long after the event. By the time they win, the merit of all the laureates has been plain to people in the field for years.

Here's a simple remedy. The academy should stop thumb-sucking for a year or two, save the money spent on the bureaucracy, and spend it on some extra prizes for deserving people. We could have two physics prizes a year until the backlog disappears. Not only would this enrich a lot of young scientists who could do with the

money, but it would refresh the whole nature of the prizes.

While they are at it, they could get rid of the 19th-century division of science decreed by Nobel: physics, chemistry, and physiology and medicine. The foundation argues that it can't change the rules, but it did so in awarding a prize for economics.

Spreading the net wider would better reflect today's science. For example, while the physics committee recognises astronomers, it ignores geophysicists. The development of plate tectonics in the 1960s, a profound shift of understanding, went unrecognised: a scandal, especially as much of the work was done by physicists. Nor has the field of epidemiology ever been recognised by the committee responsible for the medical prize.

After nearly a century, the Nobel prizes are established as the ultimate accolade for a scientist. That is a great achievement by the bodies responsible, but it is time for a rethink. If Nobel's memory is going to be as well served in the next century, they need to think more quickly, spread the net wider, and take a few risks.

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Why have generations of Europeans been so seduced by the Dark Continent? Justin Cartwright explains

Africa — the white man's other Eden



African dawn: whites see a mirror reflecting a noble image — but they are often seeing a far from natural landscape

When white people first arrived in Africa they thought they had discovered it. This is a bit like Bishop Berkeley's immaterialism: Africa does not exist until I perceive it. Africa still seems to white people a world waiting for them to make it real in its unmade, receptive nature.

There is space, there is an element of discovery, there is self-expression, there is grandeur and — not least important — abundant domestic help. The white person feels flattered and quickly moves to self-congratulation as he realises that to be white in Africa is still to have some distinction.

While I am wearing the hair shirt, let me admit that I have misgivings about my own deep attraction to Africa. Still, this attraction is real enough: I find that although I have lived more than half my life in Britain, I am still deeply imbued with the idea that the African landscape is more real, more vibrant, more significant. Of course it's nonsense, but I can only report that I feel more alive and more myself in Africa. I have spent many happy days, even weeks, simply wandering about or sitting by a river or driving aimlessly to see — to see what exactly? — to see landscape.

But landscape, as Magritte made abundantly clear and as Simon Schama has documented, is only significant when we make it so. Still, I can't imagine myself making an expedition to the Cheddar Gorge or Box Hill in the same spirit of self-discovery. Because I am all too aware that Africa for me is an introspective experience, a communion with myself, it worries me that I seem to share this pastime with so many other white people. Whenever I meet one in a



The desert blooms — the flora of the African desert

game park or on the road, I find myself exchanging self-congratulatory stories about elephants and lions and flooded rivers and close encounters with giant insects and colourful snakes.

You could look at the lives of Laurens van der Post and Wilfred Thesiger and see that they regard Africa in the same way, a sort of giant mirror of the self, a mirror which seems to provide a noble image, unlike the cloudier mirrors in Europe and America.

However we came by our ideas of landscape, there is no doubt that the landscape of Africa is on an heroic scale. Seeing the Ngorongoro Crater from its rim was one of the great moments of my life. As I looked down from 2,000ft there appeared to be dots and ribbons on the improbable green of the crater floor; the pointillism which formed only became apparent when I picked up the binoculars. Then I saw herds of wilde-

beest, elephants, gazelle, and birds in their teeming thousands. It's a miracle that this place still exists almost untouched, a miracle which can be traced back to the Masai and their way of life, their cattle herding and burning of the scrub. It's far from a completely natural landscape.

But I have come to the conclusion that the landscape which the Masai have helped to preserve appeals so strongly because it is a landscape which, while at first acquaintance wild, is in fact settled and populated. It seems to suggest something Edenic, that man can live in a kind of harmony with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. It chimes with the myths of landscape which flourished in early 19th-century Europe.

Karen Blixen said of the Masai: "They had deep roots to their nature as well, down in the soil and back in the past which, like all roots, demanded darkness." It's very appealing, this semi-mysticism and it flourishes under big skies and

dramatic sunsets and endless vistas. Sometimes I long for it, particularly in the grey winter, even though I was brought up in a perfectly ordinary suburb of Johannesburg.

But the paradox about the love of Africa is that we like the things that existed before the white man came along and messed them all up. Africans, by and large, used to rest quite lightly on the surface of the earth. The apparent insouciance about possessions is why the Masai are so admired by people who live in big cities or comfortable suburbs. We are less interested in the town-dwelling or ruling classes than the nomads and rural people, precisely because they are in thrall to possessions, just like us.

Recently I have noticed a new phenomenon in South Africa, eco-imperialism: wealthy white people are channelling their managerial energies and capital into conservation. The unstated object of this is to preserve white man's Africa, a sort of National Trust of the bush, where the old ways and the old values will be maintained, away from political influence. It's probably not in itself a bad thing, but I think we should be aware of what Thoreau said: "It is in vain to dream of a wilderness distant from ourselves. There is none such. It is the bog in our brains and bowels, the primitive vigour of Nature in us, that inspires that dream."

And we should remember that myths have a sinister side. *Et in Arcadia ego* has two meanings. The second, even in *Arcadia* there is death, is the safer long-term bet where Africa is concerned.

Justin Cartwright is the author of *Not Yet Home*, published by Fourth Estate, £12.99

The birth of childhood

In 1572 Martin de Voos painted a family portrait for Antoon Anselme, an Antwerp magistrate. He portrayed the husband and wife seated at a table, one holding their son and the other their daughter. The picture was surmounted by a scrolled inscription which announces that the master of the house was born on February 9, 1536, his wife, Johanna Hooftmans, on December 16, 1545, their son, Aegidius, on August 21, 1565, and their daughter, Johanna, on September 26, 1566. It illustrates the emergence of the modern concept of the family made up of distinct individuals, both children and adults.



Before the 16th century children barely existed as a species; now they are everywhere

In 1579 Sanchez Coello painted a portrait of the Infanta Isabella, daughter of Philip II of Spain, aged 13. She was the complete little lady, resplendent in jewelled head-dress, curled hair, high ruff, formal gown, and ringed fingers. The tradition would last in the Spanish court until the 1650s, and the famous series by Velázquez of another Infanta, Margarita of Austria, daughter of Philip IV. Once again, the exquisite seven or eight-year-old is shown as a lady in miniature. Children were still thought of as persons of lesser stature, not fully grown, but not qualitatively different from their parents.

In earlier times, neither the nuclear family nor the age of

HIDDEN EUROPE

took shape between the 16th and 18th centuries. It can be traced in the dress and iconography of the times, in the invention of toys and pastimes specifically for children, in changing morals and manners: above all, in a radical new approach to education.

Medieval children had largely learnt by living, eating and sleeping with their elders, all of whose activities they observed at first hand. They were not isolated or protected from the adult world. Only boys from higher society attended school, and they did so in all-purpose, all-age groups. One of the earliest instances of a school being divided into classes was recorded at St Paul's School in London in 1519. With age-grouping, and the extension of schooling, came a great increase in imposed discipline. Christian morality, codes of conduct and humiliating punishments were imposed from above. Schoolboys were the first to be introduced to a prolonged and graduated progression towards adulthood. Girls, often married at 13, were much

more likely to miss out. Childhood implies innocence. Yet immodesty in children, and in relationships with them, had long been taken as natural. The boyhood conduct of Louis XIII (b 1601) was observed in every detail by the court physician, Dr Herouard. The Dauphin was not reprimanded for groping his governess in bed, for instance, nor for showing off his first erections, which went up and down "like a drawbridge".

Married at 14, he was placed in the nuptial bed by his mother, to whom he returned "after about an hour and performing twice, with his cock all red".

The "ages of Man" clearly constituted a well-formed scheme by Shakespeare's time. But every century has made its contribution to generational concepts. If childhood was discovered in early modern Europe, adolescence was discovered by the Romantics, after Goethe's *Werther*, and "senior citizens" by the post-industrial era.

NORMAN DAVIES

• This occasional series of "capsules" is from Norman Davies's book, *Europe: A History* (OUP)

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■ POP

More mellow, still yellow: catch Donovan (and the wind) at Dingwalls in Camden
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

Final front ear

POP

**Space
Norwich**

that school of histrionic pop which gave us Steve Harley and Cockney Rebel, where mannered vocals meet melodrama. The Liverpool foursome have fashioned a similar blend of musical theatre, novelty rock and songs about psychopaths.

Live at the Water Front. Space give these ingredients a slightly different emphasis. Tommy Scott's extravagant vocal fics (imagine a punk Max Bygraves) are buried in the mix, which is a relief. But the neat arrangements and shuffling beats of their album also get submerged, which is a pity. Not that their young followers seem to mind. The songs still provide catchy hooks on which to hang several types of teenage obsession.

It seems appropriate that their adolescent anthem to doomed love, *Me and You vs. The World*, gets played twice. Meanwhile, Scott's fellow singer and songwriter, Jamie Murphy, provides the teen angst with *No One Underneath* and *Kill Me* and the schoolboy jokes with *Low Child of the Queen*, all delivered with laddish good humour.

Swirling beneath this surface, though, are more intriguing currents. These were revealed when keyboardist Franny Griffiths was left to play *The Growler*, a dance track of sampled voices and throbbing beats. Until this moment, Griffiths had confined himself to embellishing the efforts of others. Suddenly he was on his own, making a contribution which seemed to belong to quite another event. It was like finding Liam Gallagher addressing the Conservative Party conference: it had curiosity value but no obvious purpose.

JOHN STREET

The first complete cycle of the new Royal Opera Ring crashed and soared to its close on Saturday to an audience reception scarcely noisy. What has it achieved? Even if there were any doubts at the time of the previous cycles five years ago, they have been swept away: Bernard Haitink is one of the great Wagnerians. It's not just such mundane matters as balance (you can hear the words all the time), or beauty of sound, though there is a very special velvety clarity, a lean muscularity to the orchestral palette that is Haitink's own. His players respond with loyal devotion in an act of communal music-making of the highest order.

The secret of successful Wagner conducting has to be pace. Goodall had it — he greatly admired Haintik's Wagner, incidentally and so has his successor. It's a very different pace, a brisker, more lyrical tread: the second act of *Die Walküre* runs like a train, unstopably, and some might argue that Siegfried's crucial encounter with the Rhinemaidens could take a touch more expansiveness. But the sense of musico-dramatic architecture is always there; you know that when Haintik starts a musical paragraph, an act, even a whole opera, he has its end in view, and he knows where he is going. He paces over one or two cracks with supreme tact, though there is little even he can do with the end of the first act of *Götterdämmerung*.

one of the really bad half-hours in the Ring. His is a wonderfully comprehending and comprehensive musical vision.

His cast is as good as you will find today, with some individual performances we will be boring our grandchildren to death about: Graham Clark's Mime, Jane Henschel's Fricka, Philip Langridge's Loge among them. The physical energy and the feeling are almost head-battering; emotional fervor that John Tomlinson brings to his Wotan are unique. If this leads to his sometimes being a little unsparring in matters of volume, so be it, it's part of the overwhelming stature of his reading. Has there ever been a more musical Siegfried than Siegfried Jerusalem? Or one with such beautifully bronzed tone? If he fires occasionally, again, so be it, and he knows how to disguise the fact better than anyone.

Deborah Polaski's absolutely tireless Brünnhilde remains hugely impressive, her heroic flights matched by moments of gently expressive soft singing — her immolation brought Saturday's performance to a rousing close. And, as should happen, one or two singers have taken giant steps forward during the cycle's progress: Catherine Wyn-Rogers (Erda and First Norn), and Rita Cullis (Freia and

Third Norn — would that she had been singing Sieglinde as well). And there was one remarkable Wagnerian debut on Saturday: the endlessly versatile Ann Murray, bringing her very special gifts of musical phrase and word-colour to Waltraute's narration.

The Richard Jones production excites fierce controversy, and anyone who responds positively gets so poisonous a reaction that you suspect it has touched some raw nerves. It's a "poor" Ring, with the cardboard box a pretty chilling symbol of the post-Wotan, post-Wagner society we have created. It is hard to demur at Jones's new ending, suggesting that *Götterdämmerung* has all been a terrible mistake — can you sit through the second act without a shudder of recognition? — and we must try to do better than Alberich's *Rheingold*-vision made flesh.

It is a production that reacts inventively to the implications of the text, with the extension of the "light" and "dark" Wotan/Alberich to a "light" and "dark" Siegfried/Hagen (they are identically dressed by the end) especially thought-provoking. Hagen is much more than just a villain, and Kurt Rydl's impersonation has grown impressively with the cycle.

It's a Ring for and of today, thoughtful, comfortless, "critical" in the very best sense, and open-ended, which is surely a compliment to a composer whose vision we haven't quite caught up with.



depressingly "normal" as to

IN THE old days, companies performing *Wozzeck* probably might have been a little simply get the notes right or less rigid, but we have moved on a long way from there. What hit you most forcibly at Opera North's revival at the Grand last Thursday was the sheer beauty and variety of the musical performance under Paul Daniel, the total clarity of the orchestral playing, the iron control of balance that enabled an audience on the edge of its collective seat to follow Richard Stokes's fine English translation, and thence the opportunities for the soloists to sing with maximum expressive freedom.

In a reading of extraordinarily wide dynamic range, from barely audible pianissimo to searing orchestral tutti, Daniel found all the essentials: the silky Viennese textures, a cleanness of articu-

lation and Berg's macabre wit. *Wozzeck* emerged not as an "important" modernist score but as mainstream opera, its roots deep in the 19th century, its influence still felt today.

Similarly, in Deborah Warner's superb production Wozzeck is no Expressionist freak-show—that would be too easy a way out. On Hildegard Bechtler's bare stage, lit with characteristic subtlety by Jean Kalman, we meet a meticulously rehearsed cast of very ordinary people. Peter Bronder's Captain, wonderfully well sung, is just plain stupid, as much a sitting target for Clive Bayley's slyly sadistic Doctor as Wozzeck himself. Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts's Andrius is so

depressingly "normal" as to connive at the Drum Major's assault on the cuckolded Wozeck. I wondered only whether Mark Curtis's Simpleton was not a little too "baroque" in this everyday company.

Josephine Barlow is new as Marie, soaring rapturously through her big set pieces, using her exceptional body language to suggest how the program is changed by the Drum Major (Jacque Trussell), her face brightening, her stance loosening. Wozzeck, as three years ago, is Andrew Shore, ineffably tragic as a man who "thinks too much" but is unable to express those thoughts. Their scenes together are almost unbearable to watch: the murder and its aftermath certainly are. This is one of the great opera productions of our day: I beg you not to miss it, in Leeds next week, or on tour until the middle of November.

CONCERTS

was giving its first symphonic concert in London. Only an orchestra with its experience of Tchaikovsky's music for *The Sleeping Beauty* could phrase its woodwind solos as expertly as it did in that composer's *Pathétique Symphony*. The strings were sometimes coarse in texture and the brass blatant, but Gergiev's baton-less direction, left-hand fingers a-tremble, conjured an eloquent depth of feeling in spite of the audience's intrusive applause before the *lento* finale.

On the gloomy night, in

On the previous night, in the second of two London Symphony Orchestra programmes, Kent Nagano

CERTS (now designated the ISO's

principal guest conductor) directed Berlioz and Stravinsky. The former's *Harold in Italy* brought Yuri Bashmet as solo viola, in this context not so much the virtuoso we all know him to be as a partner with the orchestra in revealing the poetry of feeling beneath the surface detail.

Bashmet was certainly a touch more assertive in this work than he used to be, notably in the opening scene of *Harold in the Mountains*, to the advantage of the music. During the master

music's Byronic character. And Nagano found an ideal speed for the following Pilgrims' March, the pilgrims

More pictorial music fol-

more personal music followed in *Petrushka*. Stravinsky wrote nothing more jammed with instrumental accident, and Nagano brought out all the multi-coloured detail of the first and last scenes with unusual

In between, moreover, he most persuaded us of the woodwind puppet's agony of spirit. Stravinsky's revision in 1947 gives added prominence to the orchestral artist, who was notably killed in an overall ensemble that displayed a fine cutting edge in the woodwind and brass alike.

NOEL GOODWIN

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■ FILM

Kevin Costner moves from *Waterworld* to golf world for his new movie, *Tin Cup*
OPENS: Friday
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■ DANCE

The Royal Ballet season opens at Covent Garden with a mixed bill set to Ravel's music
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■ BOOKS

From Hadrian's Wall to the Med: Derek Williams explores *The Reach of Rome*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
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ARTS
TUESDAY TO
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IN SECTION 2

The wind-up in the willows

Terry Jones has taken a few liberties with his new film of Kenneth Grahame's classic. Sue Summers reports

A Chaucerian scholar and author of a now standard text on the *Canterbury Tales*, Terry Jones, 54, was for years characterised as the most academic and intellectual of the Monty Python group. But a recent interview in which he revealed that he and his wife, Alison, a research biochemist, enjoy an "open marriage" makes one appraise him with new eyes. His thick greying hair, dark eyes and eyebrows and an unbounded enthusiasm do indeed make him attractive in a ruffled kind of way. Today, though, with his beloved dog, Mitch, lying on the settee, and a Victorian clock ticking on the wall among the children's posters, he seems every inch the family man.

This is appropriate, since Jones' main interest at the moment is attracting family audiences to his £10 million film of Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows*. As well as writing the script and directing a cast which includes Eric Idle as Rat, Steve Coogan as Mole, Victoria Wood as the Tea Lady (the modern incarnation of the Washerwoman), Anthony Sher as Chief Weasel and Stephen Fry as the Judge, he also plays the vain, reckless and boastful Toad.

As Jones has never read *The Wind in the Willows*, preferring to indulge an obsessive childhood passion for Rupert Bear, he was not at first particularly interested when he was invited to direct the film. He then approached the task of turning a leisurely Edwardian idyll into a feature film for the 1990s with a lack of reverence which some Grahame purists will no doubt find distressing.

Following in the footsteps of Alan Bennett at the National Theatre, he transforms the weasels from uppity proles into "Thatcher's children" — in Jones' adaptation, property speculators intent on razing Toad Hall to build a dogfood factory — and adds multiple car crashes, explosions and giant mining machines to suit today's more sensation-hungry youngsters.

"It's a charming book and I like the cosiness of the world it evokes: a very safe England before the changes of the 20th century," Jones says. "At the same time, I feel it's a book that's very much part of its time, and I'd imagine it's difficult for today's kids to accept some of it. For instance, Grahame describes birds planning their migration by using the image of a hotel in the South of France where residents

stay all the year round. What does that mean to a child now? It's a world that's gone."

The son of a bank clerk from Colwyn Bay, Jones grew up in Claygate, Surrey, a place he found "hatefully stuffy". Educated at the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, where he was head boy — perfect preparation, says his producer, John Goldstone, for life as a director — he started writing and performing in revue at Oxford, teaming up with his fellow graduate Michael Palin after he left.

They were working with Idle and the American artist Terry Gilliam on a children's show, *Do Not Adjust Your Set*, when John Cleese suggested they join him and his writing partner Graham Chapman in 1969.

"When the BBC commissioned *Monty Python*, we didn't have a title, let alone any idea what would be in it," Jones says. "Nowadays, I'm sure they wouldn't take the risk. Everyone's so much more ratings-conscious. They say, 'Who is this lot?' and do demographic studies of the potential audience. The point about *Python* is that we did it for us and it created its own



All but one of the Monty Pythons has a part in Terry Jones' film: "I was trying to get Terry Gilliam in as the river, but his part was written out"

audience. It wasn't a commercial product, and that's the way you get surprises."

He took an active interest in directing on the TV shows and shared the director's credit on the first *Monty Python* feature film, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, before taking sole charge on *The Life of Brian* and the team's

vaudeville *The Meaning of Life*. The films have taken more £100 million at the box office. But while Jones enjoyed post-*Python* success with *Personal Services*, his last effort, *Erik the Viking*, was a critical and commercial flop seven years ago.

Besides starring Idle, *The Wind in the Willows* features Cleese and

Palin in cameo roles. The only absentee is Gilliam, who has enjoyed huge success as a director himself, with films like *The Fisher King* and *12 Monkeys* sending frissons of jealousy through his former collaborators. According to Idle, the men who broke the mould of TV comedy now "take genuine delight in one another's failures".

"I was trying to get Terry Gilliam in as the river, but unfortunately his part was written out," Jones says with what sounds suspiciously like glee in his voice. "He's not speaking to me now. He is upset. He's American and Americans get a bit funny about these things."

● *The Wind in the Willows* is released on Friday

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on Sam Shepard's tempestuous drama of incest and rage; plus Emlyn Williams's whodunnit

When Sam Shepard directed his *Fool for Love* in 1983, he reportedly kept telling the performers: "That's fine, but take it further, take it still further." Every feeling had to be topped by another and then another. What he had written was a sort of American *Phédre*: a

Fool for Love
Donmar

Portrait of an obsessive and incestuous love whose stage directions asked the leading lady to utter "mournful agonising wails" and required her very body to "weep".

In New York there was hardly a part of Kathy Whitton Baker, larynx to fists to knees, that did not hurt itself into the task of obeying those

The family that strays together stays together

Instructions; but the first British production was, well, a bit British by comparison. Julie Walters's May and Ian Charleson's Eddie banged the walls and slammed the doors of their motel room with big, satisfying booms and clangs, but they did not exactly burn and boil within. In Ian Brown's fine new production, Barry Lynch and, especially, Lorraine Ashbourne come nearer to generating the right American temperature.

They are, you see, half-brother and half-sister, victims of a father whose revelation of bigamy succeed-

ed only in propelling them into a lasting affair. Now Eddie has sexually betrayed May, she has escaped from their trailer to the Mojave Desert, he has tracked her down, and neither knows what to do. Like many of Shepard's characters, they cannot live with or without each other. All is inarticulate confusion and glandular angst.

Nor is *Fool for Love* their story only. Gawn Grainger, playing the father's ghost or his children's memory of him, uneasily wanders the stage as Lynch and Ashbourne deliver a couple of those compelling monologues for which Shepard is famous, this time describing the abject, self-destructive passions of the old man's abandoned wives. And

BILL HENBORN



Tug of love: Lorraine Ashbourne as May and Barry Lynch as Eddie caught up in an incestuous affair

offstage there is a glare of headlights, a screech of brakes, gunshots, an explosion, the sound of terrified horses charging from a burning truck: Eddie's vindictive former mistress making her own obsession rather drastically felt.

Robin Don's motel, with its scratched yellow walls and awful brown furniture, is sufficiently seedy but maybe not claustrophobic enough. Moreover, Lynch's accent makes the odd, distracting side-trip to London and, I think, Sydney. Never mind. He exudes dark intensity from inside the stubble jutting out above his grubby vest, and Ashbourne reinforces her growing reputation for emotional authenticity and power. Her raw, raucous May sobs, yells, dances with frustration and rage, hurls herself onto the floor and against the door, pounds the bed and the pillows; and never is the effect melodramatic.

Grainger's self-indulgent old man watches from the sidelines, as does a fourth and final character, an amiable wimp played by Martin Marquez. He came for nothing more than a relaxed date with May at the movies — and is left to scratch his head and boggle in wonder at a real-life demonstration of love gone nuclear. I know how he feels.

Neighbourhood psycho

Night Must Fall
Haymarket



All charm and no menace: boy-man Jason Donovan

may end up hauling flesh-cramped suitcases and trunks around England.

The play was first staged in 1935, when the world was more tolerant of wordy melodramas and clunky characters. Mrs Bramson's bungalow, "in a forest in Essex", contains a dim maid, a comically aggressive cook, the owner's plain but clever niece, and the latter's Drones Club wooer. It also contains Mrs Bramson herself, in Rosemary Leach's excellent performance: a pouchy, vaudevilian whose whine is just a bit worse than her bark.

In other words, a well-qualified murderess is waiting

in her wheelchair by the time Donovan's Dan saunters in, exuding a boyish charm that does, I fear, come across as more obviously ingratiating than the stage directions require. But there would be no play if one did not believe that Leach's Mrs Bramson takes such a liking to the boy she instantly hires him as help-mate and surrogate son: so one blinks, pinches oneself, and goes along with the plot of what is less a whodunnit than a when-will-he-do-it-again.

Sadly, there are other problems. The behaviour both of the detective investigating the first murder and of Mrs Bramson's niece is beyond belief. Anthony Pedley's Inspector Belsize chugs round the stage impervious to everything beneath his nose except the old briar he likes to puff. Meanwhile, Charlotte Fryer's Olivia tries and fails to convince us that she is unsentimental enough to see through Dan's chummy exterior to the monster within, yet sufficiently sentimental to cover up one killing and make a second pretty well inevitable.

Maybe she would stand a better chance of carrying this off if Donovan were more mesmeric. His curious accent, which veers from Cardiff to Connemara, is justified by a stage direction demanding an accent that is "indeterminate but more Welsh than anything else". The anxious whimpers and sobs, meant to reveal the damaged tot inside the smiling poseur, are well enough done too. But where is the arrogance and menace, the

dangerous monomania of the boy-man with the bleak religious upbringing and the chip on the shoulder?

Williams clearly had those qualities himself when he acted the role, but they mostly elude Donovan: a pity for the play.

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Matthew Parris



Political speeches now echo 1980s advertising. Short paragraphs. Verbless sentences. Like this

With the exception of the Prime Minister, they all seem to be at it. One page of Michael Portillo's speech to the Tory conference last week contained little more than a hundred words, arranged in paragraphs, none of which contained more than one sentence. Only two paragraphs contained more than a dozen words. A week earlier in Blackpool, Andrew Smith, Labour's Transport spokesman, followed his Leader's lead into short, verbless sentences, one passage of his speech running: "Traffic jams on the M1. Road congestion. Changing at Preston. As with so many attempts by politicians to be modern, the style is actually about half a step behind the times. You see the same grasping at what was modern yesterday in the design of today's conference stage sets, which ape the sort of look in vogue for the television set designs of the Eighties. As in the visual, so with the spoken word. The modern conference speech unconsciously echoes the advertising copywriter's style of the 1980s. Advertising has moved on since then, the industry accepting that consumers can tackle sentences with quite complex structures; but to the politicians of the Nineties, the Eighties are still the latest thing. It is time, then, for an all-purpose framework for the podium politician who wishes to impress. I have taken as my theme nuts, but for "nuts" you can substitute almost anything...

(Party leader runs on, to disco fanfare, eyes burning.)

"As I look about me, as I look around. Ahead. Forward. I see a vision. Let me tell you what I mean. I mean nuts. True nuts. New nuts. Not yesterday's nuts. No going back to the old nuts. No return. Instead, nut reborn. Young nut, shared nut, growing nut. Nurtured nut. Nuts fulfilled. Cherished. Nourished. Undiminished. Nuts' new dawn. Let me explain. Big nut. Not small nut. Huge nut. British nut. Yes, British! Strong. Tough. Tough nut. Not Brussels nut. Oh no! Caring, committed, community nut. Nut with values. Firm nut. Focused nut. Single nut. But never isolated. Oh no! Upright nut.

"We need a framework for podium politicians. My theme is nuts"

and choice. "Choice and excellence. Diversity and choice. Diversity, excellence, choice, nuts, and honour. Opportunity nut. Fair, reasonable, reaching out. Nut 2000. Nut mission. Nuts for all. All our people. New solutions. No false promises. No betrayals. No lies. No leadowns. No more. No. I see aspiration. I see hope. "Hopeful nuts, high-wage nuts. Skilled, sophisticated. Future nuts: limitless, optimistic and empowered. "Stakeholding nuts, investing in nuts, partnership of nuts, nut potential, nuts anew. "A force for good; for nuts unborn. So many nuts! "A need for change. "A fresh start. "And let us now redouble. Let us now commit. Reach out, I say. "Reach up. "Down. "Forward. "A nutty covenant, I tell you: A nutty vow! (Spouse of party leader runs onto stage and embraces leader passionately. Crowd goes wild. Press goes wild.)

To whom was the Prime Minister's soundbite, 'New Labour, Old School Tie', supposed to appeal?

Class politics is below the salt

I find the class gibes of John Major's Bournemouth speech altogether baffling. Party conferences are supposed to appeal to voters. To what voters was the carefully drafted soundbite, 'New Labour, Old School Tie', supposed to appeal? Mr Major contrasted his own grammar school education with the "privileged" public school education of Tony Blair. To have been taught by a first-class English grammar school in the 1950s was every bit as privileged as to have attended any public school. Mr Major left school at 16 because of family circumstances. His education was interrupted because the family business failed, as tens of thousands of small businesses do in recession. If he is a victim of anything — and, after all, he is Prime Minister — it is the business cycle and not the British class structure.

When my father was born in 1889, Britain really was a class society: as Mr Major's father was born a decade or so earlier, the Prime Minister may have been brought up on folk memories of that pre-1914 way of life. The first great shock to the British class system was the First World War, now 80 years ago. If one reads the war memoirs of the men who fought in the trenches — and I have recently been reading Anthony Eden's — one can understand how that terrible experience changed their class-consciousness. The settled world of Edward VII has never returned. The slump came as a second shock, taking further the destruction of class confidence.

The Second World War took the process of destroying the old hierarchy even further. That was the great opportunity for bright and aggressive young officers, whatever their background. The young colonels and brigadiers were ruthless meritocrats, and Montgomery encouraged them to be so. The RAF had always had to be a meritocratic service, very con-

cerned about professional skills, and not at all interested in what school a pilot had been to or who his father was. I did my National Service in the ranks of the RAF in the late 1940s; it was a classless society.

The next historic shock to the British class system was the destruction of the capital base of the old middle class by the postwar combination, under Labour and Tory Governments, of inflation and confiscatory taxation. For some of the older fortunes, the final coup de grace was delivered by the Lloyd's disaster. Finally, the opening of market opportunity in the 1980s — the Thatcher revolution — gave the meritocrats a further push forward. Even in the earlier centuries, the British class system had always been mobile, with families rising and sinking with the generations. Now this mobility was accelerated, and there was soon an army of new people taking advantage of it.

Most of my own life has been lived in this classless atmosphere. I do remember the evening of the old class system in the 1930s, when I was a child, but I found Oxford in the 1940s, with large numbers of ex-service students, a meritocratic and competitive society. In 1952, I became a journalist, which has remained my basic profession ever since. Journalists are great gossipers, but in my experience they do not spend much time gossiping about each other's class origins, nor do they care about them. There is

the occasional upper-class journalist, such as Charles Douglas-Home, who became an excellent and courageous Editor of *The Times*. He did not get the editorship because he was the grandson of the 13th Earl, but because he was a highly effective professional journalist from his apprentice days working in the lobby for the *Daily Express*, through to his period as a war correspondent for *The Times* interviewing Russian tank crews as they invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968. It was his guts and not his

tion or high social class of birth would long survive.

There are of course many networks, and there must be a few snobs left. All groups form networks which can help or harm their members. People have prejudices for and against Masons, Asians and Scots, or any other group. When I was in the RAF, the command before Church Parade was, "Fall out, Roman Catholics and Jews," and I fell out happily enough. Old Etonians are a useful network for each other, but that, too, is one which faces a good deal of prejudice; Eton is the ultimate target of sneers at the old school tie.

In modern Britain, we seem to be left with three class groups, and perhaps a fourth is on its way. Much the largest is the "classless" middle class, which is engaged in by far the greater part of the work of the country. If one starts to tell the people in the news, they almost all belong to this class. Damon Hill, Peter Thurnham, Lord Cullen, Tim Bell, Richard Branson, John Major, Nick Leeson, the Duchess of York, David Sainsbury, Tony Blair, Michael Forsyth and Kevin Lewis (the editor of the journal *Dental Practice*) were all making the news yesterday in *The Sunday Times*; they all belong to the classless middle class.

Who knows or cares where Peter Thurnham went to school, or whether his father was a baronet, a professional footballer, a naval archi-

teet, or a foundry worker? The only person I could find in *The Sunday Times* yesterday who does not belong to the classless middle class is Sir James Goldsmith, who is in a class by himself.

There are other British classes which matter, but they are much smaller. There is a trapped underclass which lacks the social and educational opportunities to climb the meritocratic ladder. Most people can climb the ladder, even if they start on a low rung, but some people cannot reach the bottom rung. That undoubtedly causes great suffering, and no one knows what to do about it. There is, on a side branch of the top of the tree, the old aristocracy, those peers of ancient line who received their titles before the railways came to England; they play the same part in our social life as the National Trust plays in our housing provision. They exist to preserve and to be preserved; they are part of the heritage industry. The great threat to the Royal Family is that it might join them.

The new class, which is not yet fully defined, is the global group, and that may prove to be the dominant class of the future. Many businessmen, most of the City and many communicators, live in a transnational world. This group is developing its own consciousness, which is different from the old national one. These people often seem more at home among their own kind in Los Angeles or Hong Kong than they would be among their fellow citizens in Britain who are still thinking in local terms.

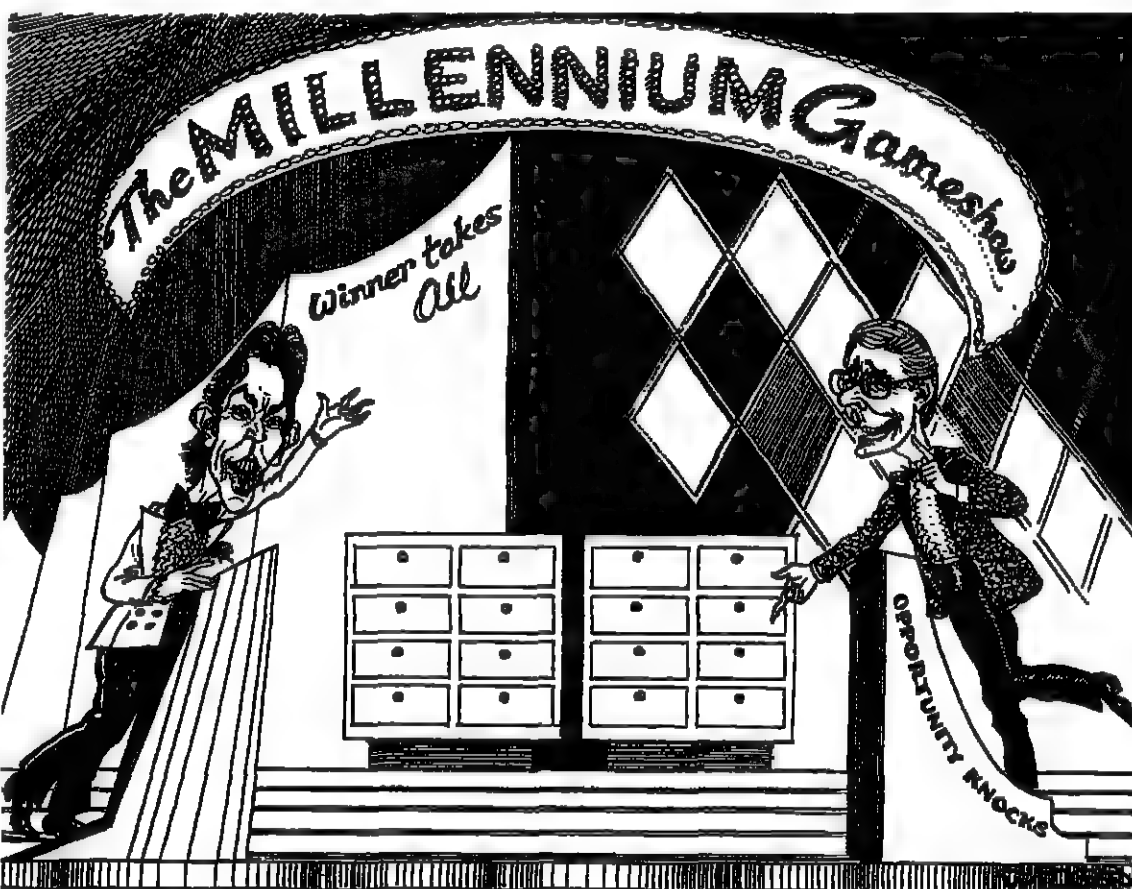
One fascination of the company of Euro-sceptics is that half of them distrust Europe because it is too big for them, and half because it is too little. In the information age, we are all going to have to end up as citizens of the world, whether we like it or not. There will be no Web site on the Internet for snobbery or for inverted snobbery.

Peter Riddell asks what difference the next election will make

One question kept recurring as I listened to the endless hours of platitudes, partisan bombast and fired jokes during the party conferences. How different would Britain be in five years' time if this lot rather than the other lot wins the next election? To the politicians, the answer is simple. Britain faces a stark choice, progress or decline, success or failure. In a fringe lecture, Malcolm Rifkind argued that "the issues at stake in this election are as important as ever if the Tory inheritance of the last 300 years is to survive, let alone be protected and enhanced". He was referring particularly to the constitution, where the Tories and Labour disagree profoundly. But similar claims of a big contrast are made about economic and social policies.

Of course, both parties still differ in their instincts, backgrounds and outlooks. There is no Major-Blair consensus. But the gap between them is much smaller than either pretends. Conference rhetoric exaggerates the real choices facing governments. Change comes slowly. Some of the constraints are obvious as a result of free movements of capital and global bond markets. Socialism in one country is impossible. Hence, what Kenneth Clarke and Gordon Brown say about fiscal and monetary policy — about public spending and taxes — is remarkably similar. They have no real choice. All parties also want to create a business-friendly environment.

Most spending programmes anyway reflect long-established, and popular, commitments. As Richard Rose and Phillip Davies argue in their *Inheritance in Public Policy*, three quarters of the Thatcher Gov-



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

ernment's spending in 1989 was on programmes which existed as far back as the Second World War, nearly a sixth on those created between 1945 and 1979 and a mere tenth on those introduced since 1979.

The *Green Budget* produced last week by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs underlines how hard it is to limit the growth in public spending, let alone to cut it. The share taken by health, education and social security has risen from 50 to 60 per cent of total spending since 1979 and stands to rise further. The political sensitivity of health, for example, was shown on Friday when John Major promised to increase spending by more than the rate of inflation in the next Parliament. But, as the IFS argues, trying to maintain a constant overall level of spending and taxes (as Labour

wants, let alone the decline that the Tories seek) will not deliver the standards of health, education and social security that the public expects. So any government will have to consider higher taxes and/or private provision. Within these constraints, parties can make a difference over time. The Tory changes to the annual uprating of pensions, from earnings to prices, and to Serps have altered the balance between the public and private provision of pensions and reduced the future cost of state pensions.

Tony Blair has explicitly recognised the more limited, and incremental, view of what the State can do. But he has yet convincingly to show how a Labour government could

fulfil the vows, "the performance contract for Britain", he made to change spending priorities on education, health and welfare. Explicit promises, however sincerely meant, matter less than a party's instincts and background. The Tories retain the voice and prejudices of the private-sector middle class, while, despite Blairism, Labour remains the party of the public sector, albeit now a middle-class, white-collar version, teachers rather than miners. The Tories' instinctive response is to restrain spending and to privatise, while under Labour, even "new" Labour, the State is still seen as a solution to problems, although now in partnership with the private sector.

The real divide may be less over existing policies, where Mr Blair is not seeking to turn back the clock, than over future changes. Though

Mr Major mainly promised more of the same in his speech on Friday, a re-elected Tory government would probably continue not just privatisation — starting with the Royal Mail and London Underground — but would also increase private provision and competition in public services. By contrast, Labour is likely to freeze further privatisation and to slow contracting-out in Whitehall and the health service. Under Labour, the free market, deregulatory zeal would be gone. Labour would also be more cautious over limiting social security entitlements and challenging local education authorities and the teaching unions. But tight fiscal constraints would force a search for increased private financing of capital investment and higher education, whichever party is in power.

Overall, the tax and spending burden would probably be slightly higher under Labour than under the Tories, but the difference might be much less than the increases earlier in the current Parliament. The wealthy would pay more in taxes under Labour, although almost certainly less than under the Tories before the big 1988 tax cuts.

The biggest difference, at least for the political classes, would be over the constitution, although even here both sides overstate their case. Scottish devolution may, probably would, create serious constitutional anomalies, but the current modest scheme should not be a step towards the disintegration of the United Kingdom. Labour would accept more of "social" Europe than the Tories, but it opposes closer integration of foreign, defence and immigration policies. Under Labour, Britain might no longer be seen as an outsider, but it would not be fully part of the inner European core — especially since the odds are less than 50-50 that it would join the first wave of monetary union.

The next election is about more than a change of management. Some policies will change and their implementation will be different. But contrary to much that I heard around the seaside, the choice is more one of rival teams than of rival ideologies — which party voters trust more.

Beware wives

SIR JEREMY ISAACS has written an open letter in *BBC Music Magazine* to Gemma McIntosh, his successor, at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. He starts by advising her not to take the job: "You know as well as I do Mr Punch's advice to those who marry — don't. But it is too late now; you are committed."

Other advice includes "Get to rehearsals", "The singers will like you to greet them" and "It's always good to say thank you, but don't

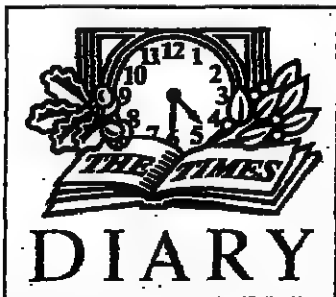
say 'That was marvellous' if it wasn't; they always know if they haven't sung well."

He finishes by warning her about the antics of the directors' wives. "Hang on, while it lasts, to the parking space," he writes. "The predators to particularly guard against are the directors' wives. The new threat, the wife of the ex-general director."

Michael Ignatieff does not do stairs. The presenter of *The Late Show* has decided against buying a warehouse in London's East End. The area is fashionable, the interior space breathtaking. But it is three floors up and the owners refuse to put a lift in the building.

Late runner

THOUGH Damon Hill triumphed in the world championship in Japan this weekend, Pizza Hut, whose advertisements feature both Hill and Murray Walker, took what could have been a hubristic view of his chances. The advertisement is a compilation of the gaffes the duo made in their debut for the



restaurants but, as the sequence closes, the words "Congratulations Damon from Pizza Hut" come on to the screen. The literature that accompanied advance copies of the video reads nervously: "Story to be used only if Damon Hill wins world championship."

Rampant cast

AN AUTUMN lamb has been born to one of the old ladies in a flock of primitive sheep in Tyneside. The nine ewes were thought to have been too old for lambing and their only companions were three castrated males.

Eunice, the 12-year-old North Ronaldsay sheep, produced a lamb after being used as an extra for the film *Island*, which was being filmed at Aydon Castle in



"I've managed to forget which party I'm in, so I don't need to defer"

Northumberland and she had a surreptitious liaison with another cast member, a Manx Loughan ram.

Rolling away

THE DUKE OF KENT is tightening his belt. He is selling the gas-guzzling Rolls-Royce Phantom V limousine that he has owned since his mother's death in 1968 and

which she bought new in 1963. The black car has only run up just over 104,000 miles and was used mainly on official engagements. Although it had sentimental value, the vehicle, which is expected to fetch between £45,000 and £55,000, was proving too costly to run.

Lord Cranbourne, Leader of the House of Lords, is considering forming a breakaway party. During the Tory party conference, he said that in his view, the students he spoke to in his travels were the most reactionary group he had met. He said: "Perhaps the students might invite me to become the leader of a new party."

Lost magic

DIANA, Princess of Wales was in Rimini over the weekend to receive Italy's Pio Manzù award for humanitarianism. Rumours are flying that Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet President, snubbed the Princess by not turning up to the award ceremony. But, far from it, Gorbachev, a former recipient of the same award, sent the Princess a bunch of unusual blue roses to apologise for his absence.

More poignantly still, a local resident, married the same year as the Princess, turned out to meet her.



Rowan Atkinson and Rodney, his author-brother

The signora in question had named her children Charles and Diana in honour of the royal couple. "I just wanted to ask the Princess, where did the magic go?" she wailed.

Bean there?

EUROPE'S Mr Bean rides again as Rodney Atkinson, brother of the rubber-faced comedian Rowan, publishes yet another of his full-throated assaults on the European Union. This one, which is entitled *Europe's Full Circle — Corporate Elites and the new Fascism*, contains the thesis that the EU is built on the politics of 1930s Fascism. Fur Rodney Atkinson, the EU is an



"international conspiracy to destroy the nation".

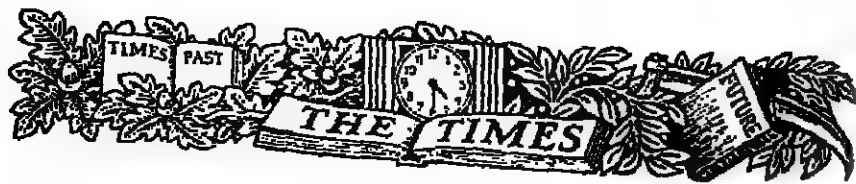
Among the more grandiose of his claims are that "leading British politicians of all parties, media executives, trade unionists, businessmen and bankers have attended annual meetings of a secretive corporatist group, founded by a former SS intelligence officer and dedicated to undermining the nation state".

Even more excitingly, he tells me: "My knowledge of German has allowed me to read Walter Funk's 1942 Nazi plans in the original."

Brother Rowan is not expected to attend Thursday's launch.

P.H.S

هكذا من الأصل



QUARANTINE CONTROLS

The case for change has not yet been proved

Animal welfare agitation can sometimes be inspired less by respect for other creatures than by regard for human interests. Although the campaign to replace Britain's quarantine laws with a passport for pets scheme has been presented as a kindness to animals, its advocates are often diplomats and soldiers who are thinking of their own convenience. It would, of course, be a mercy to find an alternative to keeping animals kennelled for six months at a time. The Government is right to review the arguments. But before any change is made careful thought must be given to the consequences for the country of removing an important protective barrier under pressure from peripatetic pet-owners.

The present system is certainly strict. Quarantine compels pet-owners to part with their creatures for half a year, and kennel costs can come to around £1,500. Sociable animals with a love of the outdoors such as dogs are warehoused in necessarily restrictive conditions. A few do not survive absence from their owners. In the past month two cases have lent momentum to the campaign for change. A Danish consul, Henrik Sorenson, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Stear have both seen their family pets die in quarantine. Both have applied pressure to change what Sir Michael has called a "cruel and evil system of unnecessarily extended incarceration".

Sir Michael and Mr Sorenson do not want for influential allies. Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, and the House of Commons Agriculture Select Committee have both argued for the abolition of quarantine. In its place, campaigners want to adopt a system similar to Sweden's, where a dog has to clear the triple hurdle of inoculation, blood testing and identification by microchip implant before it can enter the country. Campaigners cite a reduction of animal smuggling into Sweden since the

adoption of the new system. Change would certainly make life easier for that class of professional whose work involves relocation abroad every so often and the tourist who feels the family pet should be part of the family holiday. But easing restrictions would raise legitimate concerns in many more quarters.

Quarantine has been successful in keeping Britain free of rabies, save for an isolated incident with a bat, for 26 years. Sweden's new arrangements have been successful so far, but it is not certain that inoculation can guarantee the level of security afforded by quarantine. An American dog which had twice been inoculated in its home country was nevertheless discovered to be carrying rabies while in quarantine in Britain in 1983.

The consequences of rabies reaching Britain would be far more distressing than the costs of quarantine. There would be a real threat to public health and the steps required to limit the spread of contagion could lead to greater animal suffering than anything endured in kennels. On the Continent, attempts to control rabies in the past have involved policies towards wildlife which would sit uncomfortably with this country's rural traditions. It would be a poor bargain if the freedom of diplomats' pets was bought at the expense of poisoned fowls.

Quarantine may be harsh, but it has been undeniably effective. Advocates for change have a responsibility to ensure that their reform proposals can promise the same security. The Government may well conclude that improving technology, in both vaccination and identification, can provide a workable alternative to quarantine. It may wish to accompany any change with an increase in fines for those found smuggling pets. But quarantine can only be abandoned by a government confident that it will not have to contemplate uglier policies in the future if its new barriers are breached.

OCCUPIED EAST TIMOR

The brave fight of Carlos Belo and José Ramos-Horta

Nobody can pretend that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to two courageous men from East Timor will end that land's occupation by Indonesia. Nobody can pretend, either, that the Indonesian Government will be moved, or shamed — or even very slightly embarrassed — by this latest international spotlight on its continuing brutality. Yet in choosing to honour Bishop Carlos Belo of Dili and José Ramos-Horta, the Nobel Committee in Oslo has, nonetheless, voted to deliver a powerful symbolic slap to General Suharto.

The facts are naked and eloquent. Indonesia marched its Army into East Timor, then a Portuguese colony, in December 1975. It was an act no more lawful than Saddam Hussein's forced annexation of Kuwait and General Galtieri's aggressive adventure in the Falkland Islands. Nearly 21 years later, Jakarta still rules the Timorese people — against their will, against the will of the international community, and against all norms of civilised conduct and administration. In these two decades of vassalage to Indonesia, more than 200,000 Timorese have been killed and over 100,000 ethnic Javanese have settled on stolen land. The local Tetum language has been banned and Bahasa Indonesia imposed by force. Roman Catholicism (the main religion of the Timorese) has been aggressively discouraged and thousands of freedom fighters have been imprisoned after farcical show trials.

Indonesian atlases style occupied East Timor as the country's "27th province". But the Timorese today are as alienated from Jakarta as they ever were, and that is why they continue to fight for their independence.

Indonesia's military might has ensured that the fight is a grotesquely unequal one. A poignant illustration of that inequality was seen on November 12, 1991, in Dili, when soldiers of the occupying army slaughtered nearly 200 unarmed demonstrators. Images of that massacre momentarily captured the world's imagination, before occupied East Timor receded once again from sight.

Yet men like Bishop Belo, who works tirelessly from his cathedral in the heart of the Timorese capital, and Mr Ramos-Horta, who travels the world in the Timorese cause, have ensured that General Suharto has always had "a sharp piece of gravel in his shoes" (to use the words, referring to East Timor, of Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign Minister). According to Bishop Belo, "all the Timorese want is to sit at the table with the Indonesian Government and negotiate a peaceful exercise of self-determination". But Jakarta has shown absolutely no inclination to loosen its military grip over the annexed land, nor even to consider discussions with legitimate representatives of the Timorese people.

Mr Ramos-Horta said on Friday, with impeccable modesty, that the Peace Prize should have gone to Xanana Gusmão, the Timorese resistance leader who is serving a 20-year jail sentence for "conspiracy to set up a separate state". Perhaps he is right; but the two men honoured are Mr Gusmão's co-conspirators. In fact, it is virtually impossible to find a Timorese man or woman who is not guilty of that conspiracy too, whether in speech, or thought, or action. Let the world take notice of that, as the Nobel Committee has done, and applaud the bravery of this embattled people.

A GOOD WIN FOR A GOOD MAN

Sportsmanship was this year's real Formula One winner

Damon Hill's magnificent victory in Japan has deservedly won him the crown of the Formula One world championship. Not only does Hill bring back to his country a trophy that again puts Britain on the sporting map; but the poignancy of capturing the title that his father Graham won, and for which he battled so tenaciously with his team-mate Jacques Villeneuve and earlier with his arch-rival Michael Schumacher, has stirred a patriotic pride in Britain that fully justified John Major's immediate message of congratulations.

What has particularly thrilled the nation, however, it was not the fact of victory — sweet though it is — but the personality of Damon Hill. His behaviour at the moment of triumph was typical: he embraced his wife, Georgie, who has supported him loyally, asked after his three children, and then, with a graciousness beyond the obligations of sportsmanship, thanked his Renault-Williams colleagues and dedicated his victory to a team from which he has just been so brutally sacked. Modesty, decency, humour and sportsmanship are, unfortunately, no longer qualities associated with sport; more often the men who win trophies on the field, often the men who make the headlines as much for their arrogance and philandering as for their single-minded will to win.

Damon Hill has never regarded victory as the be-all and end-all. At 36 he is old enough to understand failure, to see beyond ephemeral glory and to realise that fair play, balance and dignity are at least as important

as the often corrosive compulsion to beat all others. Such qualities are held up as the quintessence of English sportsmanship, but too often they seem to belong to an earlier, more innocent age.

Those who today bask in sporting notoriety are those for whom no tactic is too rough, no strategy too underhand if it secures the defeat of their opponents. Hill would no more think of thrusting his way to the chequered flag by ramming his opponents than he would of indulging in the kind of exhibitionist bad behaviour in planes, clubs and resorts that has made other British sportsmen all too well known.

Victory, nevertheless, is profitable. Hill has been rewarded for his skill, to the tune of several millions. Both he and Frank Williams may now regret their break; he, because he will next year not have the technical expertise of the world's most formidable team behind him; Williams, because the dismissal of the man who is now Britain's most popular motor-racing star makes him look all the more churlish.

For all the team's insistence that it is cars, not men, that win races, the public believes otherwise. It backs racers, and over the past three years Damon Hill's popularity has made motor-racing perhaps the fastest-growing sport in the country, with high stakes and huge television audiences. Hill now shares with his father the honour of being one of the world's great drivers. He brings to a new generation his father's glory, enhanced by his own gallantry and grace.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Powers of PCC to deal with complaints of press excess

From Mr William Garnett

Sir, Some will be encouraged by Lord Wakeham's apparent concern (letter, October 10) about the excesses of the press in the past few days.

Lord Wakeham is concerned at the lack of complaint coming from individuals whose privacy has been invaded. He suggests that a reason for this is that "individuals are reluctant to complain and perhaps prolong the suffering through the investigation". He recognises that "the situation is unfortunate".

I suggest the reason for the lack of complaint to the Press Complaints Commission may be a lack of confidence on the part of potential complainants that the commission is independent of newspapers and that there is a reasonable chance that complaints will be upheld.

As regards the failure on the part of the Duchess of York and Diana, Princess of Wales to complain, no doubt they took to heart the comments of Lord Wakeham, in an article published in *The Mail on Sunday* after the Princess's Panorama interview:

But that privacy can be compromised if we voluntarily bring our private lives into the public domain. Those who do that may place themselves beyond the PCC's protection. And must bear the consequences of their actions.

It appears to many that the PCC is sympathetic to the argument of newspapers that if individuals are prepared to give up some part of their privacy they cannot complain of a subsequent further invasion.

This approach to privacy, re-emphasised in his letter — "those who seek the limelight of publicity should always be prepared when its glare is returned, sometimes harshly" — actively discourages complaint. Can such an approach really be right? It is but one short hop to arguing that public figures have no rights to privacy.

After the past two weeks I do not think that there are many, outside the industry and the commission, who agree with Lord Wakeham that "the

industry... has made tremendous strides in the last few years in raising standards".

I note that Lord Wakeham points out that the commission "has powers to raise its own complaints". Why has it apparently done nothing to challenge both the *Daily Mirror* and *The Sun*?

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM GARNETT,
Bates, Wells & Braithwaite
(Solicitors),
61 Charterhouse Street, EC1,
October 10.

From Mr Gerald Isaacsman

Sir, Lord Wakeham's letter in your, as Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, is another fudge.

He states that the commission can act only on the receipt of a complaint and that if those offended by the press refuse, for whatever reason, to protest, then he cannot help them. Not true.

The PCC does have its own hotline whereby it can offer considerable help and advice without a formal complaint necessarily being made and people being put off by having dirty washing exposed through subsequent investigation.

By far the greatest number of matters referred to the PCC are settled by way of correction and/or apology. Editors, too, are known to talk to the PCC informally and "bounce" stories off it prior to publication.

Of much more significance is Lord Wakeham's declaration that the PCC does have powers to "raise its own complaints when it needs to — and will not hesitate to use them". When did the PCC, under his energetic chairmanship, last do so? I can recall no such occasion.

Indeed, if self-regulation is to work then the public must have full confidence in the PCC's ability to prevent abuse of our precious freedom of expression, as well as demonstrate its ability to stamp out excess. The alternative is the imposition of the chains of legislation on such a vital liberty. It is time that the PCC started acting

independently in the public interest, rather than Lord Wakeham claiming that sections of the press are taking lack of complaint as a signal to go over the top.

The unhappy belief abroad, alas, is that the PCC is there as an industry sop so as to prevent the introduction of legal sanctions. Where is the stricter and more specific code of conduct promised by Lord Wakeham?

His reputation is that of a man who can fix things. He ought to get on with it.

Yours sincerely,
GERALD ISAACMAN
(Member, Press Complaints Commission, 1993-95),
Garrick Club,
15 Garrick Street, WC2,
October 10.

From Mr Piers Ashworth, QC

Sir, Self-regulation of the press has been shown not to work, not because of any lack of bark on the part of the PCC but because of its lack of bite. The reason for these inexcusable invasions of privacy is financial: increased circulation. The only way in which such greed can be combated is by financial penalties — and penalties of sufficient size to negate the gain.

Unless and until these are available Lord Wakeham's trust that "all those who have an interest in these issues will co-operate with me and the commission as we chart the way forward in strengthening self-regulation" will be misplaced — as has been similar trust in the past. There has been ample time to establish effective self-regulation, and it is a little late to chart the way forward when the ship has run onto the rocks.

I am a staunch believer in freedom of the press and I fear its regulation. But does any other realistic course remain?

Yours faithfully,
PIERS ASHWORTH,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4,
October 10.

Help for victims of infected blood

From Prebendary A. J. Tanner,
Chairman, The Haemophilia Society

Sir, A recent World in Action programme (ITV, October 7) has highlighted the insensitive approach taken by the Government to the issue of blood-product safety.

In the programme, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, John Horgan, spoke about people with haemophilia who contracted the hepatitis C virus through their NHS treatment. His comment, that while many have died of the virus many others will have "the gift of life", shows a staggering complacency.

In a letter to this society, dated October 1, Mr Horgan rules out financial assistance for those infected, on the grounds that the money would be better spent on patient care and that it could also quickly develop into a no-fault compensation scheme. The facts are that the Government made ex-gratia payments to people with haemophilia infected with HIV through their NHS treatment, thus avoiding the need for a no-fault compensation scheme. These payments came from government contingency funds and so did not divert money from patient care.

Given this, why cannot payments be made to people infected with any other potentially fatal blood-borne virus — hepatitis C — which was contracted in exactly the same way and over the same time period as HIV?

Over 3,000 people have been infected with hepatitis C, many have died and more are suffering. We need urgent action to help to alleviate this distress and to enable provision to be made for the families of those who have died. The Prime Minister should intervene and overturn this heartless decision.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TANNER,
Chairman,
The Haemophilia Society,
123 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1,
October 8.

Romanian throne

From Mr Gheorghe Antoniadu

Sir, A letter published on October 2, under the heading "No longer royal" (see also letter, October 11), argues that Her Royal Highness the Princess Margareta of Romania has, through her recent marriage (report, September 23), lost both her title and right to the Romanian throne. This is not correct.

The Romanian constitution stipulates that the inheritance of the throne should follow the male line, therefore eliminating Princess Margareta; she cannot by her recent marriage lose a right that she never had.

King Michael has never named his eldest daughter as heir, as this would be unconstitutional; but His Majesty has always indicated his personal desire that Princess Margareta should be heir to the throne if the constitution could be changed.

Neither the constitution nor the Royal Family bylaws forbid the heir to the throne, or other members of the Royal Family, to marry a Romanian citizen. There is only a tradition by which the heir would marry a foreign person, a tradition which would not apply to a princess who is not heir to the throne.

For the marriage of members of the Romanian Royal Family, the bylaws stipulate that the King's consent is compulsory: without that consent the marriage is deemed null and void and carries with it the loss of all rights and prerogatives.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Margareta of Romania has married with the King's consent and has not therefore lost her royal status or title.

Yours faithfully,
G. ANTONIADU
(Head of the Household of His Majesty King Michael of Romania),
Villa Sionica,
BP 627, 1200 Versoix,
Geneva, Switzerland,
October 3.

Common men?

From Dr Gabrielle Ward-Smith

Sir, The decision by John Major and Brian Mawhinney as well as Tony Benn to speak at the recent party conferences in their shirt sleeves (reports and pictures, October 10; letter, October 11) is not without precedent. They were following in the footsteps of Stanley Baldwin, that master of the political image.

On a visit to Canada in August 1927, Baldwin removed his jacket while addressing an audience of businessmen in Montreal in order to, as he put it, better talk with his audience "as man to man".

His seemingly unheeded gesture won him praise in the Canadian press. The *Toronto Globe* headline said: "British sound, strong, unafraid, says man at helm. Baldwin sheds coat and tells Canadians to bank on John Bull."

Yours faithfully,
G. WARD-SMITH,
23 Cannon Place, Hampstead, NW3,
October 11.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Customer rights to sue over strikes

From Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC

Sir, The Government propose legislation to enable victims of strikes in monopoly public services to sue trade unions for damages if a strike's effects are disproportionately damaging to the public (report, October 10).

By contrast, in early 1995, the same Government vigorously opposed my Human Rights Bill to make public authorities liable in British courts for the excessive use of their public powers in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

By what principle (other than political self-interest) do the Government seek to do unto others what they refuse to have done to themselves for actions disproportionately damaging to basic human rights and freedoms?

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LESTER,
House of Lords,
October 10.

From Mrs V. M. Crews

Sir, If customers are to be allowed to sue monopoly public service unions for any losses incurred as the result of

strikes, I trust the Government will allow the public to sue such services should there be any shortfall because of lack of government funding; for example, postponed NHS operations or a failure to supply care in the community for those who need it.

Yours faithfully,
V. M. CREWS,
1 Dellfield Close, Beckenham, Kent,
October 8.

From Mr R. A. Humble-Smith

Sir, If legislation is really needed to enable the victims of strikes to sue unions of monopoly service providers then, to be fair, it should also include employers.

This would avoid employers escaping all liabilities while at the same time being able to back the unions into a corner. It should also mean that the customer wins either way, surely a very desirable end.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HUMBLE-SMITH,
Neville Jones & Co (Solicitors),
52/54 Station Road, Swanage, Dorset,
October 10.

Nobel prizewinner

From Mrs Carol Chapman

Sir, So James Mirrlees has won £75,000 as his share of the Nobel Prize for publishing the theory that middle-income earners could reasonably pay higher rates of income tax (Business reports, October 9; Valerie Grove, October 11).

I would submit that most middle-income earners neither enjoy the fruits of the "share-options" scam nor, in the main, are they recipients of any other handouts (or prizes). They generally work very hard for their income (of 60 per cent of it).

The past five years of recession and uncertainty have been tough by any reckoning and to hear that academicians are awarded prize money of such proportions apparently for "middle-income bashing" makes one certain that the world is flat.

I will retract these words of disdain when I hear that Professor Mirrlees has donated his prize money (after tax of course) to the Exchequer.

Yours,
CAROL CHAPMAN,
Somersby House,
Stokeshead Road, Oxshott, Surrey,
October 11.

Tunnel faces its toll

From Mr Jonathan Crozier

Sir, Anatole Kaletsky is a brilliant economist but I fear that his love of Paris and of his daughter (to whom he has bequeathed his free travel) is blinding him to the futility of the Eurotunnel share as an investment (article, October 9).

I can assure him that the capacity of the Shuttle is already stretched beyond endurance at busy times and that spending two hours queuing in a car park gets a jaunty break off to a desperately irritating start. My daughter prefers to enjoy the bars, cafe, shopping and sea-gazing offered by the ferry (although admittedly the tastes of a two-year-old can change).

Mr Kaletsky writes casually of the

ferry giving up and of Eurotunnel sticking another tunnel under the Channel as if, having built one, there were somehow economies of scale attached to a second. I think that he will be older than 102 before that happens.

In the meantime, as a raging bull of Eurotunnel shares, Mr Kaletsky will be tempted to take advantage of yesterday's 10 per cent fall in its share price. I advise him to keep his money in the bank (preferably a bank that is not planning to fund Eurotunnel II).

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN CROZIER,
110 Embleton Road, SE13,
October 10.

Sport letters, page 39

Under a cloud

From Mr Barry S. Doe

Sir, The Independent Television Commission has supported Jersey's claim to be the sunniest resort in Britain, thereby upsetting Eastbourne (News in brief, October 10, later editions). Jersey should surely have been disqualified as it is not in Britain. It is part of the British Isles, but so is the Republic of Ireland and I doubt any town there would ever lay claim to being the sunniest resort.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY S. DOE,
25 Newmorton Road,
Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset,
October 11.

A cold front?

From Professor Emeritus
Edward Garden

Sir, Mr John Faulder says that the "main function" of clothes is "to protect the body against the elements" (letter, October 4). This is true only outdoors.

In the centrally heated houses of today, surely their function is to cover parts of the body which ought not to be seen. Whether or not the fashion designers have this practically totally in view is perhaps open to question.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD GARDEN,
91 Millhouses Lane, Sheffield,
October 4.

Out for a duck

From Mr Peter Humphrey

Sir, Yesterday evening my wife and I dined at our local Indian restaurant. My wife ordered Bombay duck, only to be told that it was off the menu for good, that there were no supplies in the whole of the UK, and that this was the result of EU regulation.

Is this farcical state of affairs to be regarded as a "Canard de Bruxelles"?

Yours, in disbelief,
PETER HUMPHREY,
Hillcroft, 53 Bluehouse Lane,
Limpfield, Surrey,
October 11.

Money-go-round?

From Mr P. J. M. Allen

Sir, Is not finding the British Rail Board over a signal fault (News in brief, October 9) just moving money from the State's left-hand to its right-hand pocket?

Yours faithfully,
J. ALLEN,
28 The Grove,
North Cray, Sidcup, Kent,
October 8.

Musical works

From Mr Lionel Bloch

Sir, In Yasmina Reza's opinion (Arts, October 5) "a person can think about luxuries, while listening to Schoenberg".

True, but this is hardly a contradiction. *Au contraire!*

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
Halcyon,
Ormond Avenue, Richmond, Surrey,
October 5.

OBITUARIES

BERYL REID

Beryl Reid, OBE, actress, died yesterday aged 76. She was born on June 17, 1920.

Although never quite in the first flight of her profession, Beryl Reid was a respected and useful actress who had two great hits with which her name will always be associated: Frank Marquess's *The Killing of Sister George* in 1965 and Joe Orton's *Entertaining Mr Sloane* a decade later. Both were somewhat advanced shows for their time, and Reid's casting in them reflected perhaps the fact that her original stage training had been in revue.

She was quite open about where her inspiration for Marlene, in particular, came from. She was based, she used to say, both on the landlady of a celebrated theatrical "digs" in Birmingham and on her dresser at the Theatre Royal there. As for Monica, Archie Andrews's companion, she was the product of her schooldays in Manchester — indeed, when playing her alongside Peter Brough manipulating Archie, she used to wear exactly the same gymslip and straw boater that had seen her through her last two years at Leverhulme High School.

Although she went on the stage (in a concert party at Bridlington) as early as the age of 15, there was nothing theatrical about Reid's background. She was the daughter of a Manchester estate agent who was moderately prosperous and very much opposed to her treading the boards (her mother was much more encouraging). Her early reputation was built entirely as a comedienne — the hearty provoker of many a belly-laugh in the less sophisticated sort of revue. She always liked to claim that it had taken her eight years to find a part in a serious play that suited her —

but from the moment she read the script of Frank Marquess's *George*, she knew that her quest was over. Not that his birth was entirely easy: starting out at the Bristol Old Vic, it went on a pre-London tour before coming into the West End at the Duke of York's in June 1965.

A play explicitly about lesbians, it shocked audiences in the provinces. But suddenly lines — whether delivered by Reid or her co-star Eileen Atkins — which had evoked no response on the pre-London tour were in St Martin's Lane greeted with gales of laughter. After that, it was triumph all the way. Reid went with the show to Broadway, winning a Tony award — Broadway's Oscar — for her playing of the title role. She then went on to be cast in the same part (her rival had been Bette Davis) in a slightly heavy-handed film version made in Hollywood. In all, she lived with *George* for four years and no one could have asked for a more auspicious baptism in the legitimate theatre.

Parts like that of Joan Buckridge (Sister George) do not, however, grow on trees and it was not until 1975, when she opened at the Royal

Court as Kath in *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, that Reid got another one. If anything, Joe Orton's play was even more adventurous than Frank Marquess's, and again there was a sniff of scandal about this revival of it (it had first surfaced in London in a production at the Arts Theatre by Patrick Dromgoolle in 1964, and Reid had already played Kath in it in a 1969 British movie). Neither the play nor the film brought her quite the same success as *George* but both certainly consolidated her reputation as a serious actress.

For the rest of her career, her choice of parts was not quite so kind to her. She joined the National Theatre and the RSC, each for one season, after playing in *Mr Sloane* and took a number of parts at the Theatre Royal, Windsor, which was conveniently near her Thames-side home. But she will probably be best remembered for her splendid vignette TV performance in *Smiley's People* (1982). She had played in the original *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (1979) and here expanded her role as the veteran M16 archivist, Connie Sachs, slightly given to the bottle. It won her a BAFTA award for best TV

actress and she was further gratified by a Comedy Award for a lifetime achievement in the British Comedy Awards of 1991. She was appointed OBE in 1986.

The British public came to recognise Beryl Reid as something more than a character actress; both TV viewers and theatregoers, quite rightly, saw her as a genuine character in her own right. She was a celebrated subject of a *This Is Your Life* programme, had a number of TV series of her own and in 1984 published her autobiography, *So Much Love*. She wrote two other books with the help of co-authors: *The Cats Whiskers* (1986) — at one stage she had nine cats — and *Beryl, Food and Friends* (1988).

Beryl Reid was twice married. Her first husband Bill Worsley, the producer of the old BBC Light Programme's *Workers Playtime*, was the brother of the drama critic, Cuthbert Worsley, who whether on the *New Statesman* or the *Financial Times*, tended to find occasions in which she appeared. Her second marriage, which also ended in divorce, was to the musician Derek Francis. She had no children.



RENE LACOSTE

René Lacoste, French tennis player, died on October 12 aged 92. He was born on July 2, 1904.

RENE LACOSTE was the last surviving member of the "Four Musketeers", the dashing French quartet who dominated world tennis at the end of the 1920s. Between them the four — Lacoste, Jean Borotra, Henri Cochet and Jacques Brugnon — held the Wimbledon men's singles title continuously from 1924 to 1929. Together, in 1927, they became the first continental European team to win the Davis Cup, breaking the Americans' seven-year grip on the trophy, and retaining it themselves until 1932.

If Lacoste was in many ways the least charismatic of the four, as a player he was probably the most effective. Borotra, the "Bouncing Basque", was a model of flamboyant athleticism, whose on-court antics made him a favourite with spectators. Cochet was strikingly handsome, with a dazzling turn of speed. Brugnon's smart, rather military appearance belied his cheerful insouciance on court. All three gave the impression that there was more to life than tennis.

Lacoste, in contrast, was a model of assiduous application. Neither good-looking nor naturally talented, he won by making sure the other player lost. As a tactician he was outstanding; he kept copious notes on his rivals, pinpointing their weaknesses and tailoring his game to exploit them. He wore opponents down with his ability to retrieve whatever came at him: sooner or later, outgunned, outmanoeuvred and desperate for a shot that might beat those relentless returns, the other man would make a mistake, and Lacoste moved in for the kill. He was one of the greatest defensive players the game has ever seen.



René Lacoste was 16 before he first picked up a tennis racket. His father, a former champion oarsman with excellent sporting standards, was unimpressed when the future Wimbledon winner was beaten 6-0, 6-1 in a schoolboy match. "Don't you think," he demanded, "that it would be wise to abandon a sport for which it seems evident that you have hardly any aptitude?" Undaunted, the unsuccessful schoolboy worked at his game with the persistence that was to characterise his play as a champion, developing his weakest strokes until they became his strongest. He outlined his methodical approach to the game in *Lacoste on Tennis*, a memoir-cum-manual published on the day he won Wimbledon for the second time in 1928, full of sound advice.

It was in 1924, when he was not yet 21, that Lacoste appeared in his first Wimbledon singles final. On that occasion he lost narrowly to his compa-

triot Borotra. The winner, however, predicted that the loser would forgive him, because "he knows and I know that he will beat me next year." Borotra was right, and in 1925 Lacoste won 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 8-6, marking his victory with an unexpected departure from his usual understated style and flinging into the air both his racket and the large white cap he played in. Borotra seemed almost as delighted as Lacoste.

Lacoste was the French Open champion in 1925, 1927 and 1929, and in 1926 he became the first European since 1903 to win the American Open Championship at Forest Hills: on that occasion, Borotra was the loser. Lacoste regarded it as his most memorable victory, and he retained the title the following year.

In 1925 and 1929 Lacoste and Borotra together won the Wimbledon doubles and the French Open doubles, but it was in 1927 that they — together with their fellow

"Musketeers", Cochet and Brugnon — enjoyed their most famous victory, when they made up the team that broke America's seven-year stranglehold on the Davis Cup.

That victory was almost inevitable. The French had been going from strength to strength with every match since 1924, and their growing dominance coincided with the incipient decline of America's hitherto invincible team of W. T. Tilden ("Big Bill") and W. M. Johnston ("Little Bill"). In the 1925 Davis Cup, Lacoste had taken Tilden to match point in the third set and had managed to take a set from Johnston: in 1926 he beat Tilden in four sets (4-6, 6-4, 8-6, 8-4); in 1927 he beat Johnston in three (6-3, 6-2, 6-2); Tilden in four (6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3); and the heyday of the "two Bills" was over. Tilden realised how cleverly he had been outplayed by Lacoste. "He had developed a slice serve just for the purpose of beating me," he observed, too late.

The following year Lacoste met Cochet in the Wimbledon men's singles final. It was a hard-fought match, but as the *Times* correspondent observed in his report, "at full-length driving, Lacoste can go on forever", and go on he did, to win 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5, and take his second Wimbledon singles title. On this occasion he varied the austerity of his usual approach with a complete somersault, much to the crowd's delight.

In 1929 a respiratory ailment forced Lacoste to retire from tennis. He had as a player been nicknamed "Le Crocodile", and in 1934 he founded, more or less as a hobby, La Société Chemise Lacoste, a company to manufacture sports shirts decorated with a trademark alligator motif. The brand is now one of the biggest and most instantly recognisable in the world. Lacoste himself pursued a number of other business interests, and handed over control of the company to his son in 1964.

He retained an interest in tennis, however, and was involved in the development of a metal-frame racket and a ball-launching machine. He was a notable protester in 1946 against Borotra's exclusion from Wimbledon because of the Bouncing Basque's wartime record as Sports Minister in the collaborationist Vichy Government, and in the 1960s he supported the campaign in favour of open professionalisation in tennis. In 1950 he was belatedly awarded the Legion of Honour for his services to French tennis.

In retirement he became a keen and accomplished golfer and in 1930 he married Simone Thion de la Chaume, a brilliant amateur and the first French winner of the British Open. They had three sons and a daughter, Catherine, who in the 1960s repeated her mother's success as a champion golfer.

WILLIAM VICKREY

William Vickrey, US economist, died on October 11 aged 82. He was born on June 21, 1914.

ONLY two days after William Vickrey received the Nobel Prize for Economics, he died at the wheel of his car from an apparent heart attack. The strain of giving so many interviews, had, it seemed, worn him out.

Vickrey's last days were filled with optimism that at last he would have a "bully pulpit" for his ideas. Fellow economists had described him as a genius for years, but he had been ignored by those who shaped public policy, regarded as an eccentric boffin. The prize money was of secondary importance to him — indeed, he was never quite sure how much he earned at Columbia University, where he worked.

His enthusiasm was for finding ways to make economics useful in society. He had no patience for economists who were "like astronomers, admiring our wonderful tree market system" or weathermen "predicting what the economy is going to do". It was slightly ironic, therefore, that Vickrey was awarded the prize for his pioneering work on auctions. In 1961, he had written a short paper on closed bid auctions, a topic which he found fascinating, but which was for him a digression into economic theory. He thought it would have little practical use and was astounded at the impact it had on the evolving system of auctions across the whole spectrum. His life's work lay in the more socially useful field of congestion pricing — the idea that commuters should pay more if they use the roads or trains during rush hour, something, which, he felt, would ease clogged roads and make life tolerable for subway commuters.

Vickrey was born in Victoria, British Columbia. His father worked for an organisation which aided orphans from Armenia, and Vickrey grew up thinking that any dollar he spent was a dollar which should have been spent on the Armenian orphans. He studied maths at Yale and in 1935 went on to Columbia University in New York for graduate work in economics. Although he was a trained mathematician, he never stressed the importance of maths to his economic students, except as a useful tool. During the war he was a conscientious objector and worked on a new inheritance tax for Puerto Rico. He returned to Columbia afterwards, and to his research into a more equitable tax system, which was published as a PhD in 1947. Vickrey favoured progressive taxation on principle

and devised a system which was both fair and breathtakingly simple. The Internal Revenue Service, he advised, should keep for each taxpayer a cumulative account of income and tax paid, thus eliminating the incentive to move income, in appearance at least, from one tax year to another. Vickrey went to Japan in the late 1940s to help them to draft a new tax system.

Vickrey remained at Columbia all his working life, as a professor in the department of economics. Living in New York, a city which regularly becomes gridlocked, turned his mind to transport issues. He devised an efficient solution to his own transportation requirements by riding into Manhattan by train or car and then rollerskating across town to the campus on the Upper West Side. As he was a tall, well-padded figure, this presented quite a spectacle for students.

In 1952, he began his work on the fare structure of the New York subway. The flat-rate fare (then a nickel or a mere five cents) was obviously not optimal, and for efficiency the fare, he felt, should take account of the extra congestion which a passenger causes, and the extra costs they impose on the system, by travelling in a heavily used station during rush hour. Vickrey also argued that at certain stations, in the middle of the night, it would save money to collect no fares at all.

He expended these ideas to the roads during the 1950s, and by 1959 had arrived at a careful solution to ease congestion. Cars would be equipped with a tamper-proof device to monitor how often each vehicle entered and left congested areas. The meter would be read by inspectors, and owners billed accordingly for the "social cost" of their trips. Another idea would be to

raise the fee paid at toll booths during rush hour, and thus discourage the frustratingly long queues.

All these schemes had their equivalent in the private sector. People paid more to fly to Jamaica in July than in February. But, despite their practicality and fairness, they were not snapped up by those who shaped transport policy in America. In 1959 Vickrey was given a hearing by a Congressional Committee looking at Washington's traffic congestion problem. There was, Vickrey said, a "discreet silence" afterwards. "People see it as a tax increase, which I think is a gut reaction." Abroad, legislators were more receptive. Singapore instituted a similar road tax system to the one recommended by Vickrey. Metro and Underground authorities all over the world, including Britain, benefited from his ideas.

Vickrey was an inspiring teacher for those able to keep up with him. Although he was well known for sleeping during seminars, he would usually rouse himself to ask the most perceptive question of the session. After a year's sabbatical in California during the late 1960s, he received a Rip van Winkle award, proudly displayed in his office. "For deep uninterrupted concentration while attending seminars," his office was filled with towering stacks of papers and wobbling piles of books. He retired in 1981 but was still a friendly reassuring presence around the campus. His last preoccupation, one which engaged him more as a presidential election loomed, was deficit reduction. A balanced budget, as he never tired of explaining, while reminding listeners of their Keynes, led to unemployment and a host of other social ills. He is survived by his wife Cecile, whom he married in 1951. There were no children.



KEITH BOYCE

Keith Boyce, cricketer, died on October 11, aged 55. He was born on October 11, 1943.

NO ONE epitomised the sheer joy of playing cricket better than Keith Boyce, the West Indian all-rounder who played for Essex from 1966 to 1977. Whether he was bowling with unbridled hostility, batting with carefree abandon or fielding with supreme athleticism, he exuded a zest and enthusiasm for the game which rubbed off on everyone who played with him.

His entire philosophy was summed up in 1974 when he was chosen as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year. "I like to attack," he said. "If the ball is pitched up to me I like to hit it as far as I can and when it goes a long way I have a deep, inner satisfaction. I have never regretted taking up cricket professionally and I cannot understand any player who does not enjoy himself tremendously."

Keith David Boyce was born in the parish of St Peter, Barbados, educated at Coleridge and Parry School and began his career with the Empire Club, where he played alongside such legendary West Indian cricketers as Everton Weekes, Seymour Nurse and Charlie Griffith.

In those days he was a leg-break bowler who batted defensively but he had begun to enjoy the thrill of bowling fast in the nets and when Trevor Bailey, the former England all-rounder who was then the Essex secretary, came across him playing for Barbados against the International Cav-



aliers in 1965, he did not need a second look. He spoke to Boyce at the lunch interval and signed him as a fast bowler before he had seen him hold a bat.

Boyce had to spend two years qualifying to play for Essex in the county championship but his performances for the 2nd XI and for his club, Walthamstow, quickly confirmed Bailey's judgement. In one match he did not go in until 12.30 but still hit 125 before lunch and, when he made his first-class debut

against Cambridge in 1966, he promptly took nine for 61.

For the next 12 seasons, Boyce seemed to dedicate his life to proving he could bowl the ball faster, hit it harder and throw it farther than anyone else in the side. The newly introduced Sunday League might have been made for him and he became the first player to reach 1,000 runs and take 100 wickets in the competition. He also won a single wicket tournament at Lord's in 1969, beating his idol, Sir Garfield Sobers, in

the first round and hitting 84 off 46 balls in the final, despite having been knocked unconscious by a throw. "It must have put a bit of sense in me," he said.

Once he went into bat when Essex were supposed to be blocking for a draw and, having hit one enormous six, was stunned by the proverbial mile. On being admonished in the dressing room, he explained: "I thought that if I kept hitting it over the pavilion it would waste a bit of time."

On another occasion, he struck Arthur Milton such a blow in the chest that the former Gloucestershire and England batsman sank to his knees muttering: "Oh Boyce, what have you done to me here?" When David Shepherd, the rotund Gloucestershire batsman who is now a Test umpire, risked one for the throw against Boyce, all of 90 yards away, and was run out by half the length of the pitch, he panted: "Oh God, I got that one a bit wrong, didn't I?"

In the meantime, Boyce had embarked on a Test career which was to bring him 21 caps for the West Indies. He did not make an auspicious start against India in 1970-71 but he came into his own in England in 1973 when he finished on top of the West Indies bowling averages with 19 wickets at 15 runs each.

It was a tragedy for all concerned — Essex, the West Indies and Boyce himself — when his career was ended by a knee injury in 1977 after he had scored 8,800 runs, taken 852 wickets and held 215 catches. His benefit was little consolation, probably because

he was spending more in the pubs than he was making from the raffles, and when he went home to Barbados he was beset by personal problems, including the break-up of his marriage and the loss of his house when it was blown away by a hurricane.

Gradually, however, he came to terms with life without playing cricket, gave up drinking and was running the Barbados Cricket Association lottery and helping to coach the island's youngsters when he complained of feeling unwell on the eve of his 53rd birthday. The following morning he visited a pharmacy, where he collapsed and died.

RESULTS OF A.R.P. REVIEW
READY FOR SIR S. HOARE
NEXT WEEK

The review of the experience gained in the practical application of air raid precautions schemes throughout the country during the recent crisis is proceeding, and the data collected from local authorities and other sources are being studied by the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office. The recommendations arising therefrom will be submitted to Sir Samuel Hoare next week.

The executive committee of the Rural District Councils Association, which met in London on Wednesday, criticised the emergency plans made by the Government for billeting and evacuation during the crisis, and decided to make representations to the Cabinet, the Home Office and the Ministry of Health, calling for a complete revision of the scheme. The committee offered to assist the Government in preparing a workable scheme.

The objections the committee made to the emergency plans are based on the contention that in most rural areas water, food, sewage, and housing services are inadequate to meet the requirements of a sudden influx of refugees, and that the Government should

ON THIS DAY

October 14, 1938

In September 1938, the Fleet had been mobilised, and war in Europe seemed almost inevitable. After the signing of the Munich agreement, there was a review of all aspects of air raid precautions: it was soon apparent that much needed to be done.

provide finance to cover the cost of increasing them. The need for a medical examination of people to be evacuated to prevent the spread of infection was urged. Another suggestion was that some rough classification of refugees should be made, so that they could be billeted as far as possible in homes corresponding with those they had left. This provision, it was thought, would help to minimise domestic friction and unhappiness in billets.

"GAS MASKS RECOVERED FROM DUSTBINS"

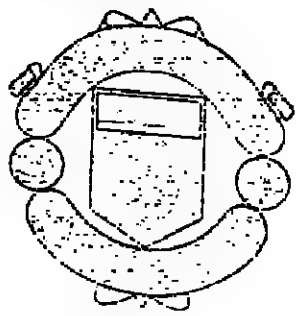
A suggestion that A.R.P. organisations of the whole of London should work in

closer cooperation was made at Westminster City Council yesterday. Advocating the formation of an A.R.P. organisation for London, MR. ARTHUR HOWARD said: "During the recent crisis our own organization was well in hand but we did not know how to get in touch with our neighbours."

MR. GREVILLE HOWARD said that in some districts there was little short of chaos.

MAJOR VIVIAN B. ROGERS, chairman of the A.R.P. committee, said that the committee felt that changes must be made in the national scheme if local schemes were to be organised effectively. He moved that the following representations should be made to the Government: A.R.P. personnel should be placed on a contract basis, as in the case of special constables; councils should be given statutory powers to take over premises for first aid posts, &c.; evacuation plans for children under 5 should be published in advance; medical services should be placed under one central authority; and steps should be taken to prevent profiteering in A.R.P. materials.

MR. C. P. RUSSELL said that in an adjoining borough he heard that 120 gas masks had been rescued from dustbins. Estimated expenditure for A.R.P. work amounting to £64,275 was approved, and the recommendations were adopted.



CLASH OF THE TITANS
Steve McManaman says Liverpool were unlucky
Rob Hughes is not so sure PAGE 30



GOING INTO EUROPE

English Rugby
Union clubs begin
their continental
adventure. David
Hands reports
PAGE 36



SHOOTING STARS

A new series on sport's lost talents
Today: Paul Moulden, record goal-scorer PAGE 32

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY OCTOBER 14 1996



Hill raises his hand in triumph after leading from the start and taking the chequered flag to win the Japanese Grand Prix, which clinched the world championship yesterday. Photograph: John Fryke

Victory at Suzuka proves nice guys can finish first

Hill scales highest mountain

FROM OLIVER HOLT
AT SUZUKA

EVERY year, Ayrton Senna once said, a driver won the Formula One world championship, but only occasionally was the winner a champion. Yesterday, a long way from home and with a lot to lose, Damon Hill clinched his first world title with a drive so courageous and flawless that it admitted him immediately into his former team-mate's hall of fame — a hero, not just a victor.

He won it the way he wanted to, rather than creeping to the chequered flag in the Japanese Grand Prix in sixth place, doing just enough to make sure. He did it the racer's way, the way he had always said would be best, leading from start to finish, taking ten points when all he needed was one. It was not a pragmatic victory; it was proud.

By the manner of it, too, he gave us proof at last, amid all the egos and braggarts that dominate so much professional sport, that nice guys can come first: that men like Hill, men with insecurities and sensitivities like the rest of us can triumph over someone like Jacques Villeneuve, his team-mate and last remaining challenger, who is adamant he has never suffered a moment of self-doubt in his life.

Hill spent much of the last talking to his team over the radio, thanking them for all their work and their help over the season, saying what a pleasure it had been to work with them, sweeping away

any of the bitterness that may have lingered over Frank Williams' decision to discard him at the end of the season. It added poignancy to his last race for the team.

On the pit wall, William Taylor, the fan Hill had flown here at his own expense, waved his flag and his mechanics prepared to hurl the special caps that bore the same design as Hill's helmet into the air.

After all the talk of scraping his way to the title, Hill had won it by 19 points with eight

race wins, a tally bettered only by Nigel Mansell, the last British winner of the title four years ago, and Michael Schumacher, last year.

At the end, when he took the chequered flag nearly two seconds ahead of his rival, Schumacher, and saw his wife, Georgie, holding up a sign with capital letters that read "Damon, World Champion 1996", he realised a different kind of dream, the English Dream, the dream of sporting success for an ordinary man.

"I believe what Damon has done is truly admirable," Williams said. "It is a great lesson for everybody who is into knowing the lessons of life. Just keep going if you believe in yourself and you believe in something. It is a great demonstration of how life generally should operate."

"He did it against the odds because he has always been almost mesmerised about starting so late in Formula One and maybe not getting anywhere. He just got his head down and went for it. He has had an exemplary career and, finally and fully deservedly, he has got what he wanted."

"He is a rare breed, a gentleman. When he came through the chicane for the last time, he spent 30 seconds telling the team what a great job they had done, how grateful he was, how it was down to them. It was fantastic. Really genuine stuff. Before the start, he said it had been a pleasure working with us all. I don't know if he included me in that."

After being forced into waiting until the last race of the season to claim the title when it seemed at one stage he would have it wrapped up with several grands prix to spare, Hill finally realised the championship was his 16 laps from the end of yesterday's 53-lap race.

Villeneuve, the only man who could have snatched the title away from him, had made a dreadful start from pole position but had fought his way up to fourth place, hoping that Hill might suffer

some misfortune. Instead, the slice of ill-luck many had feared might affect the Englishman, was visited on him. As he sped into Turn One, his rear right tyre suddenly came off, loosened by the failure of some retaining pins to hold a wheel-nut in place, and bounced off the track. Villeneuve ploughed through the same gravel that Senna and Alain Prost had sunk into in 1990 when the Brazilian drove his great rival off the track.

The young French-Canadi-

an was generous in defeat, even joining the rest of his team on the pit wall to cheer Hill home. "I am not going to try to blame anyone," he said. "Losing the championship was not just down to this race. It was the whole season and I screwed up a few times. Damon deserves it. I'm pleased for him."

Hill, of course, was almost beside himself with joy, herded from interview to interview and photograph to photograph with a permanent grin on his face, shaking the legion of hands that were pressed into his, hugging and back-slapping, and eventually yielding to his friends and heading for the Log Cabin, a bar in the circuit grounds that is the traditional venue for championship celebrations.

Before he went, though, at the post-race press conference, he even found time for a rapprochement of sorts with Schumacher. When the German was asked to give an appraisal of Hill's achievement, he struggled for a moment for words. Hill put his arm round his shoulder and grinned. "You're all choked, Michael," he said. "All emotional."

Then, though, the joking stopped and these two men who have been involved in such bitter battles over the last three years spoke their first real words of friendship. "It is good for him," Schumacher said. "He deserves it." "Thank you, Michael," Hill said. "It's a pleasure," Schumacher replied. "I mean it," Hill said. "We all knew he meant it, too. He is that kind of champion."



Hill has a few words for his old rival, Schumacher, who finished in second place, on the podium

HILL'S DAY



I know Jacques Villeneuve will get another chance. He has taken to Formula One like a duck to water.
Oliver Holt watches the grand finale 29

Hill's success, page 1
Family affair, page 3
Diary, page 22
Leading article, page 23
Race report, page 29
What they said, page 29



Big in the soft and
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delicious departments.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM
CASK ALE SINCE 1777

TENNIS: ANOTHER BRITON ABOUT TO CLIMB WORLD RANKINGS

Czech unable to halt flow of winners from Rusedski

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GREG RUSEDSKI, the British No 2, maintained his excellent run of form to win the third ATP Tour title of his career at the Beijing Open in Peking yesterday.

Rusedski, born in Canada but now based in London, beat Martin Damm, of the Czech Republic, 7-6, 6-4 in a final lasting 75 minutes and can expect his world ranking of No 25 to climb into the 50s when the new list is announced today.

Rusedski had previously won the Newport tournament, in the United States, on grass in 1993 and the Seoul Open on hard courts last year. He was also runner-up in Beijing in 1993 and at Coral Springs 17 months ago.

His success in Peking is his first since he changed his allegiance from Canada to Great Britain in May last year, and it was well earned for Damm also has a devastating first service. The first set was close, but Rusedski scrambled through the

tie-break 7-5 and then, returning service better than Damm, finished a good winner.

It was the third time that the pair had met, with Damm — who is at present ranked No 77 in the world — beating Rusedski 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 when they played in Seoul on a hard court early in the year. Rusedski gained his revenge when he beat Damm 6-3, 7-6 at Nottingham on grass in June, just before the Wimbledon championships.

"It is all down to my better

mental approach," Rusedski said. "I am concentrating far better and I'm playing the big points really well."

Boris Becker, of Germany, needed four sets to beat Jan Siemerink, of Holland, at the CA Trophy in Vienna yesterday and so secure his first title since injuring his wrist at Wimbledon.

Although Becker, the No 5 seed, was far from his best, he won 6-4, 6-7, 6-2, 6-3 on the indoor hard courts to claim the 47th title of his career and

third of the year after the Australian Open and Queens.

The victory came as a relief for Becker, who took a long break after tearing a right wrist ligament in a third round match at Wimbledon.

He returned to the circuit last month, but recurring wrist troubles saw him pull out in the first round in Bucharest, lose in the second round in Basle and withdraw from the tournament in Lyons last week.

Becker, 28, will make his next appearance at the Czech indoor open tournament in Ostrava next week, in which he has been drawn to play Frederick Fetterlein, of Denmark, in the opening round.

After Becker won the first set, he lost momentum in the second when games went with services into a tie-break. Both men missed a set point, then Siemerink profited from a backhand from Becker that went wide for 9-7.

Becker, though, recovered his form to take the third and fourth sets in relative comfort.

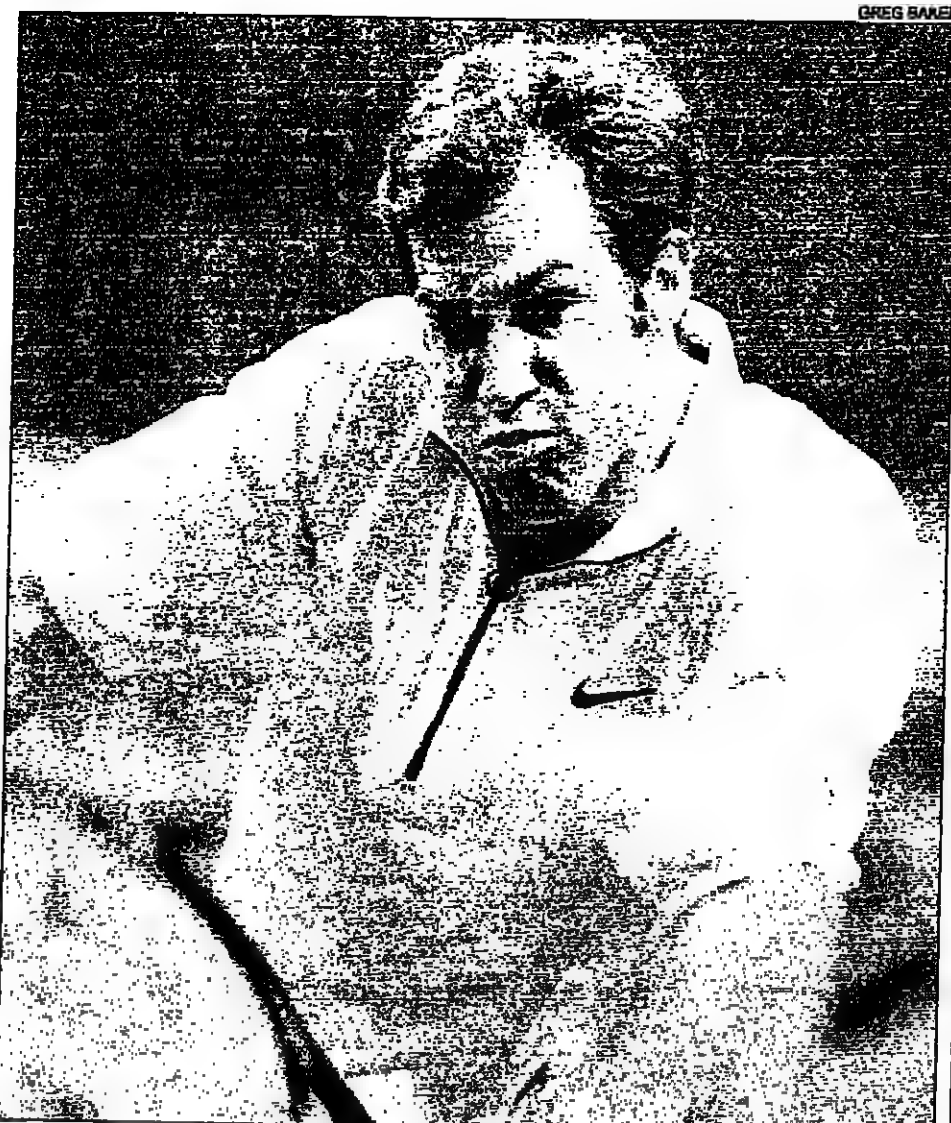
Hingis off the mark

MARTINA HINGIS, the Swiss teenager, claimed her first Women's Tennis Association tournament victory yesterday. She overpowered Anke Huber, the home favourite, to win the final in Filderstadt, Germany 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

As a result of her triumph, Hingis, 16, is likely to move up one place to No 9 in the world rankings, which will be updated today. Huber, 21,

should also go up one place to No 4, despite her defeat yesterday, after winning the tournament in Leipzig last Sunday.

Hingis, seeded No 8 in Filderstadt, beat Lindsay Davenport, the Olympic champion from the United States, in the semi-finals and also claimed the scalp of the No 1 seed from Spain, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, in the quarter-finals.



Rusedski concentrates on a backhand return during victory over Damm in Peking

CRICKET

Tendulkar makes successful start

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SACHIN TENDULKAR began his reign as captain of India with a comprehensive seven-wicket victory over Australia in Delhi.

The win, completed on the fourth day — left Tendulkar able to ignore his two failures with the bat and look forward to the one-day series with Australia and South Africa that starts later this week.

"We have made the entire country happy by this victory, and I am confident we will continue winning from here," he said.

Anil Kumble, the leg spinner, and Nayan Mongia, the wicketkeeper, were the architects of India's victory. Kumble recorded his seventh five-wicket haul in Test matches when he took another two wickets in the first session yesterday to finish with five for 67 and an overall match haul of nine for 130.

Mongia scored 152 in the India first innings to effectively bat Australia out of the match. Both captains agreed the innings was the pivotal moment of the match. Tendulkar called it "the most important innings of his career," and added: "He proved himself against the new ball."

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, said: "Mongia was superb. He showed that the wicket demanded more patience."

Australia were bowled out for 182 and 234 and only a half-century by Steve Waugh in the second innings staved off an even heavier defeat. Taylor was unhappy about the state of the wicket at the Kotla ground.

"I have played 70-odd Tests in my career, but never seen such a wicket where the ball was grounded most of the time," he said.

The success of Kumble on



Kumble: nine wickets

the surface made Taylor even more disappointed about the absence of Shane Warne, who stayed at home to recover from surgery.

"If Shane had been there we would have had the best spinner in the world. We were unlucky on that count. But I don't think we were ready for this Test because there have been only one-dayers since March," Taylor said.

Waugh added 41 runs for the ninth wicket with Peter McIntyre to remain undefeated on 67, made in 273 minutes off 321 balls with five fours. He became the first Australia batsman to score fifty in the match when he square-drove Kumble for four.

Australia began the day at 168 for six. It runs in arrears, but suffered a setback when Kumble had Brad Hogg caught at short leg. Soon after, Kumble trapped Paul Reifel leg-before and Prasad then cleaned up the tail.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings: 182 (A Kumble 4 for 67)

Second Innings:
M J Slater c Ashanudin b Johnson 37
R J Timmins b Prasad 13
M E Waugh c Mongia b Kumble 13
M C Bevan c Ashanudin b Kumble 33
P R Reifel b Kumble 4
P R Reifel b Kumble 4
P E McIntyre b Prasad 16
C D McGrath c Mongia b Prasad 0
Extras (b 9, lb 6, w 1, nb 7) 23
Total 234

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4 2-25, 3-72, 4-78, 5-145, 6-159, 7-171, 8-191, 9-232
SCORING: Prasad 13, 3-7, 18-3, Johnson 12, 2-40-1, Kumble 4-112-67-18, Joshi 20-7, 52-0, Kapoor 22-5-42-1

INDIA: First Innings:
V S Rathore c Posing b Reifel 5
M R Mongia b Reifel 152
S C Ganguly c M E Waugh b Hogg 16
S R Tendulkar c M E Waugh b McIntyre 17
M Ashanudin c McGrath b Reifel 40
R S Dravid c Healy b S R Waugh 40
S R Kapur c Posing b McIntyre 13
A Kumble b B Reifel 3
D Johnson not out 0
B A V Prasad b McIntyre 0
Extras (b 10, lb 1, nb 10) 21
Total 381

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-124, 3-162, 4-169, 5-260, 6-303, 7-341, 8-353, 9-364
SCORING: Ashanudin 29, 10, 56-1, Reifel 17, 7, 35-3, S R Waugh 14, 5-20-1, McIntyre 27, 4-7, 103-3, Hogg 17-3-62-1, M E Waugh 18-0-62-1

Second Innings:
V S Rathore b Posing 14
M R Mongia b Reifel 0
S C Ganguly not out 0
S R Tendulkar c McGrath 0
M Ashanudin not out 0
Extras (w 1, nb 11) 12
Total (3 wickets) 58

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-28, 3-26
BOWLING: McGrath 7-1-30-1, Reifel 6-2-24-1, McIntyre 3-2-0-4-0
Umpires: P Wiley (England) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

IN BRIEF

Museeuw finds new zest

JOHAN MUSEEUW, the Belgian roadman-sprinter, yesterday won the world road race championship in Lugano less than a week after announcing that he was "fed up with cycling" and would retire without bothering to defend his lead in the last two events of the World Cup series (Peter Bryan writes).

His victory in the 252-kilometre race, on his 31st birthday, could be worth £500,000 should he decide to continue racing next year. He said: "I may now have to rethink my future as world champion but my family is important to me."

The 16.8-km circuit, covered 15 times, included ascents of the Commano and Crespera each lap. Museeuw made his winning move 30km from the finish when his attack took him clear of a leading bunch of seven. Only the Swiss Mauro Gianetti was strong enough to join him.

The pair stayed clear and with a minute in hand prepared for the deciding sprint inside the final kilometre. Gianetti was quickly overcome by the Belgian who had time to sit up and give a victory salute across the line. Max Sciandri, third in the Olympic road race, was Britain's only finisher.

Lordly Lessing

Triathlon: By winning the final of the International Triathlon Grand Prix (ITGP) in Phuket, Thailand yesterday, Simon Lessing, of Great Britain, confirmed that he is the No 1 in the world. Earlier this season, Lessing added a fourth world title to his collection, which now only excludes winning the Hawaii Ironman.

Moxon on mark

Shooting: Flight Lieutenant Neil Moxon, a flying instructor at RAF Brize Norton, yesterday became the first winner of a new European Target Rifle Championship shot at 1,000 yards. He scored 144 out of 150 for a three points lead over Ireland's top scorer, Peter Barry.

McRae's plans

Motor rallying: Colin McRae, the former world champion, yesterday committed himself to the Subaru team for the next two years and revealed that his new co-driver will be Nicky Grist, of Wales.

Towering form

Rowing: Queen's Tower, the umbrella club of Imperial College, produced an impressive hat-trick of wins, including the overall mens title in the Pairs Head from Hamersmith to Mortlake.

René Lacoste

Tennis: René Lacoste, the former Wimbledon, US and French Open champion, has died at his home in Saint-Jean-de-Luz in France. He had been suffering from chronic bronchitis and cancer. Lacoste, 92, won Wimbledon twice (1925, 1928), the US Open in 1926-27 and the French Open in 1925, 1927 and 1929. Ill-health forced him to retire at the age of 25.

Obituary, page 25

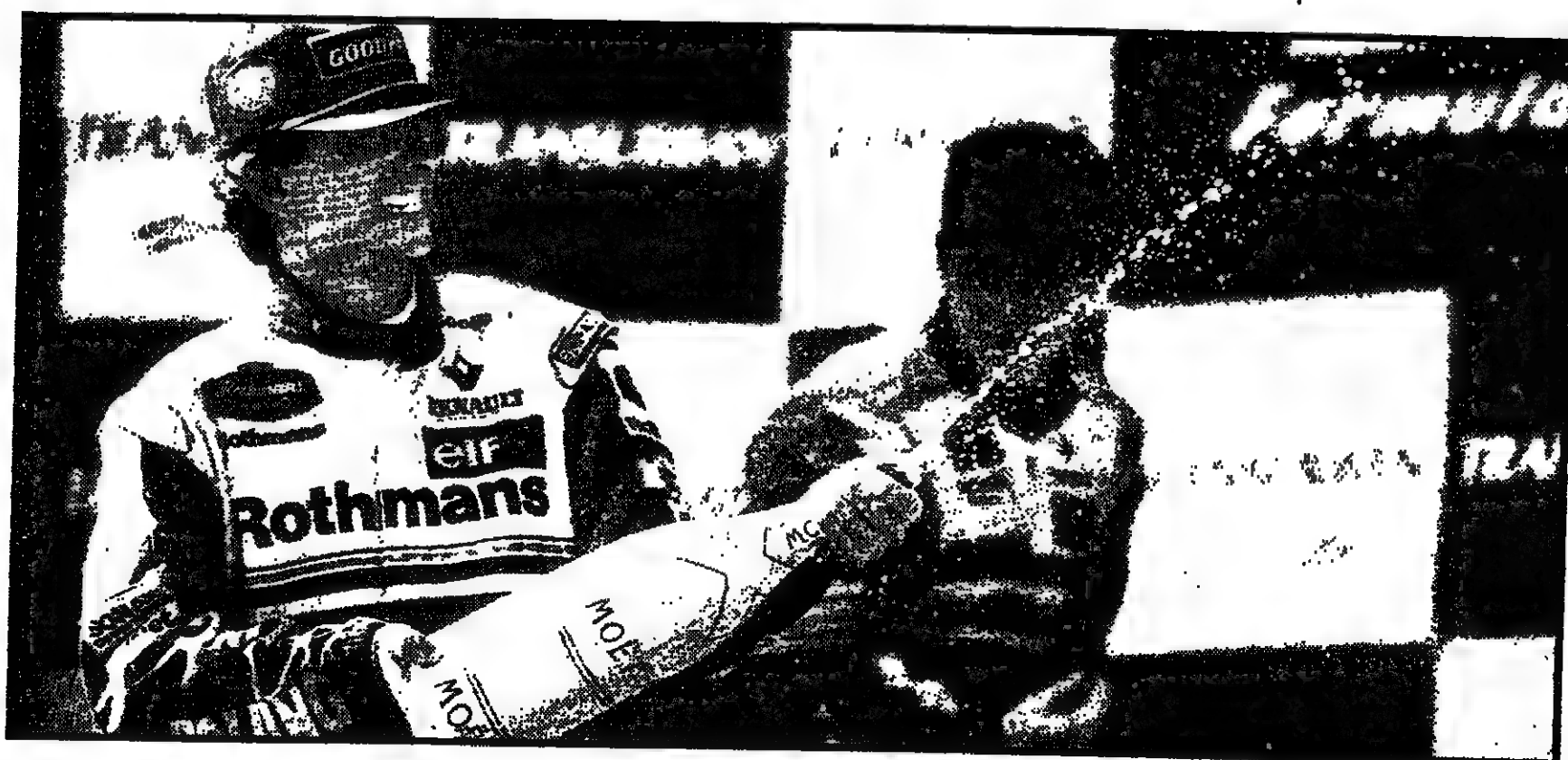
CONGRATULATIONS DAMON.

[WE KNOW HOW THE OTHER

DRIVERS FEEL,

WE'VE BEEN BEHIND HIM

FOR TEN YEARS.]



We've been Damon Hill's personal sponsor for 10 years. In that time we've grown to 2½ million customers and we've gained unbeatable UK and International coverage (so you can make and receive calls in over 50 countries around the world). And as for Damon? Well, he's not done too badly either, has he?

THE BIG NETWORK.



Oliver Holt watches Briton roar to victory and fulfil his driving ambition at Suzuka

Hill saves his best until last for Williams

DAMON HILL ended life in the Formula One fast lane at maximum speed here yesterday. The 21st win of his short and brilliant career brought many glorious things, his first world title, another victory to add to his already impressive statistics. But for the Englishman there was a poignant side to it as well. "It was my leaving present to Williams," he said.

Amid all the wild celebrations, there was a tacit admission in Hill's words that he would probably never have the chance to win the title again, that once he and the No 1 he has earned with his championship move to the TWR Arrows team next season, he will slip away from the summit of the sport that he has just conquered.

Instead of harbouring bitterness at Frank Williams's decision to discard him in favour of the German, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, though, Hill determined to turn the Japanese Grand Prix here yesterday into a celebration of all that has been excellent about his four-year association with the team that has dominated grand-prix racing in the 1990s.

"It is all too much," he said. "I cannot find the words. I find it difficult to take it all in. I wanted so much to win the race for Williams so I would like to dedicate this race to them."

"I know Jacques [Villeneuve] will get another chance. He is young and quick and he has taken to Formula One like a duck to water. But to be honest, it had to be this year for me and I am just really delighted it's happened."

"I did not really react when they told me on the radio that Jacques had gone out because if I had done that, I might as well have parked the car at the side of the track and started celebrating there and then. I knew everyone in the team wanted the win and I wanted to give it to them. I am sorry to be going but what a way to leave."

It was, quite simply, a perfect performance, not a foot wrong, not a wheel out of place. It was replete with racing virtues like aggression and boldness that many have accused Hill of lacking and both his pit stops, exercises that often caused his undoing last season, were faultlessly

executed, allowing him to emerge just in front of Michael Schumacher's Ferrari both times, almost as if he was taunting him.

There was that element to his performance, too, of course: the fact that he dominated the outgoing world champion so comfortably after so many torrid times trailing in his wheel tracks, slowing down at the end of the race so that Schumacher got the full effect of the Williams celebrations on the pit wall.

The Englishman banished the criticism about the faltering starts that had done so much to shrink a 25-point lead midway through the season by leaving Villeneuve, his team-mate and the only man who could grab the championship from him, almost standing still on the grid.

As Villeneuve's wheels spun and his car slewed to the right, his title chances receding with every faltering yard, Hill accelerated away to

celebrate away towards the first corner. Villeneuve was sixth by the end of the first lap. Only an accident or a mechanical failure could thwart Hill now.

The only alarm came on the third lap, when Gerhard Berger, who had stuck

doggedly to Hill's tail, attempted to dive inside him at the chicane. Hill stuck to his line, unaware of Berger's presence, and just when it seemed a collision was imminent, Berger braked hard and clattered over the kerbing. His evasive action damaged his front wing and effectively ended his challenge.

Hill was never seriously threatened again and his position was strengthened when Villeneuve made his first pit-stop on the fifteenth lap and emerged in ninth place. Hill's first stop, three laps later, was a model of efficiency and he left the pit lane with his lead intact but with Schumacher, rather than Mika Hakkinen, his nearest challenger, just over a second behind.

Hill gradually extended his lead over the German. Even when Villeneuve crashed out on the 37th lap, his tyre bouncing past him as he entered Turn One having worked itself loose, Hill pressed on, heartened by the irony of the fact that what seemed like an unfortunate error by the team should have ended his rival's challenge when so many had predicted

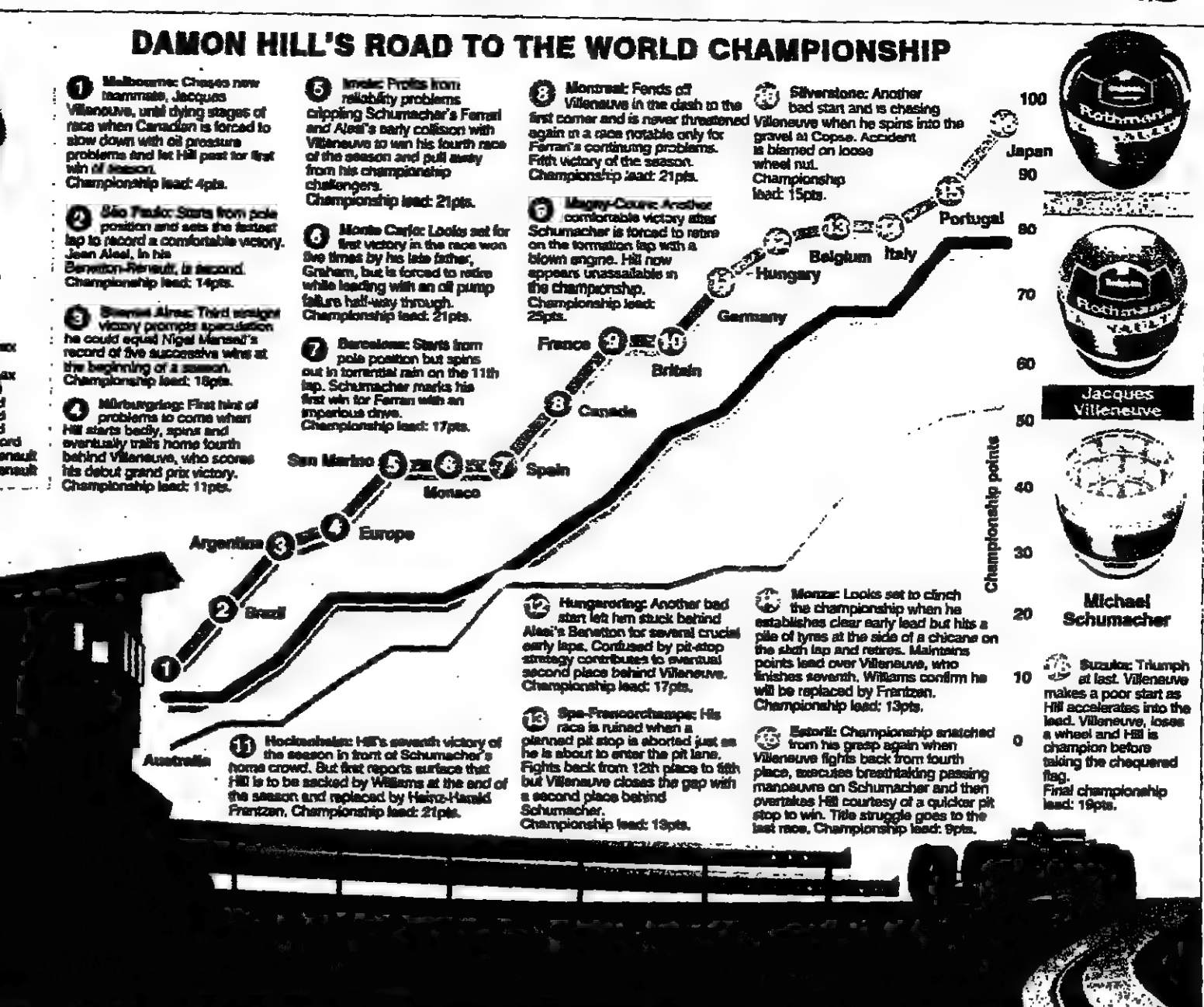


THE BRITISH WORLD CHAMPIONS

Year	Driver	Team
1958	Mike Hawthorn	Ferrari
1962	Graham Hill	BRM
1963	Jim Clark	Lotus
1964	John Surtees	Ferrari
1965	Graham Hill	Lotus
1966	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1967	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1968	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1969	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1970	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1971	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1972	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1973	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1974	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1975	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1976	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1977	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1978	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1979	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1980	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1981	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1982	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1983	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1984	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1985	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1986	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1987	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1988	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1989	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1990	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1991	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1992	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1993	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1994	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1995	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell
1996	Jackie Stewart	Tyrrell

he might suffer at Williams' hands. In the end, Hill could even afford to veer towards the pit wall on the penultimate lap to give his friends and family a chance to rehearse their celebration when he took the chequered flag. "I was so happy to be out there in the lead, I just thought I would give them a sneak preview just to get them into the spirit of things," he said.

If the bookmakers are any judge, the joy of triumph for Hill and his supporters will not be an experience repeated next year. William Hill has quoted odds of 100-1 against him winning the championship next season. Hill is, however, 5-4 favourite to be named as the BBC Sports Personality of the Year.



Rivals united in praise of winner

JACQUES VILLENEUVE, the man who could have denied Damon Hill his supreme moment as world champion, was generous in praise of his Williams-Renault team-mate after the dust had settled on their memorable season-long duel.

"I am very happy for Damon," he said. "He drove a perfect race and he has shown very hard and driven very well all year for this."

Michael Schumacher, Hill's greatest rival in previous seasons, also praised his achievement. "He has worked very hard and he deserves it. He has won eight races this

year and that is something you cannot do with just luck. It will take time to sink in and he deserves this title. It is good for him."

David Coulthard, who was with Hill at Williams last year, said: "I think it's fantastic that Damon's won the championship. He thoroughly deserves it and he could not have done it in a better way than winning the race."

Driving away the nightmares

Oliver Holt on a champion's battle to emerge from a background of personal tragedy and self-doubt

There was a moment on the victory podium at Suzuka yesterday when Damon Hill stopped struggling. He stood there on the top step and let his rivals, Michael Schumacher and Mika Hakkinen, pour every last drop out of their bottles of Moët et Chandon so that it soaked his hair and saturated his blue-and-white racing overalls. It seeped into him like sweet success.

Below him, amid the swaying, jostling throng, Ian Nicholson, his friend and photographer, tried to focus his camera through his tears. When he escaped the mêlée and stood back to drink in the expression of unfettered joy on Hill's face, he realised he was witnessing at last the realisation of the dream they had talked about ten years ago when they shared a grubby office near the Old Street roundabout in east London.

It was something more than triumph that he saw. It was fulfilment and the end of self-doubt, the end of a striving that had dominated Hill's life. "He will sleep tonight," Nicholson said, "like he has never slept before."

Hill never had to endure the same kind of physical injuries visited on the last British world champion, Nigel Mansell, never reaped the rewards in public affection of bawling back from them. But, in a different way, he has had it every bit as hard as the man he succeeded at Williams.

Silverstone, the nickname given to the hut where the children of the drivers were sent to while away the hours as their fathers raced and their mothers watched.

Hill was given a motorbike for passing his 11-plus but it was just starting to get interested in racing cars when his father, who had retired earlier the same year, was killed trying to land his plane at Elstree in November 1975. He had forgotten to renew his flying licence and the families of the five people killed with him sued for damages and left Hill, his mother, Bette, and his sisters, Samantha and Brigitte, close to penury.

Hill was 15 and he withdrew into himself after his father's death. He rebelled against the idea of racing cars and concentrated on his bikes and on his passion for music, playing in a punk band called Sex Hitler and the Hormones. He won more than 40 motorcycle races and, after he left school at Haberdashers' Aske's, he became a motorbike courier in London.

In 1984, though, his mother bought him a week's course at the Windfield Driving School at Magny-Cours, in France, and Hill was smitten. He won his first race driving an F1600 at Brands Hatch later that year and, in 1985, he finished fifth in the F1600 championship with six race wins.

His career in the lower formulas, however, was undistinguished and he was not rated as highly as contemporaries such as Johnny Herbert, Mark Blundell and Martin Donnelly. In three years of competing in the British Formula Three championship, he won four races.

In 1989 he even struggled to raise the money to get any sort of drive at all, and although he progressed to the Formula 3000 championship in 1990, he was constantly undone by the unreliability of the equipment. He was quick, though, claiming several pole positions and it was this speed that persuaded Frank Williams to give him his big break in 1991 and appoint him test driver.

Hill continued in that role in 1992 as Nigel Mansell blitzed

his way to his world championship victory.

In the mass of celebration surrounding Mansell's unofficial coronation in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone that year, Hill's grand-prix debut in an uncompetitive Brabham went almost unnoticed. Mansell won. Hill finished sixteenth and last.

When Mansell left the team in acrimony at the end of that year, Hill's test driver Martin Brundle to the job of Alain Prost's No 2 in the Williams-Renault team. He played an obedient second fiddle to the Frenchman, who won the title, scored his debut win late in the season in the Hungarian Grand Prix and added two more in Belgium and Italy.

The next year Hill again looked destined to play a supporting role at Williams, this time to Ayrton Senna. But Senna was killed at Imola on May 1 and Hill had to carry the team through their agony, suddenly thrust into the No 1 role.

The season marked the beginning of the defining contest of his career, the rivalry with Michael Schumacher. Hill's persistence, the doggedness for which his father was famed and the brilliance of his drive in the wet in the Japanese Grand Prix ensured the championship went to the wire but, trailing Schumacher by one point, he was driven off the road by the stricken German in the Australian Grand Prix and finished runner-up to him in the race for the title.

The reward for his effort was the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.

Last year he was cast even more into Schumacher's shadow, tracking him throughout the season but never quite catching him. They became involved in a bitter war of words and collided twice, at Silverstone and Monza, before the world champion eased to the title in Japan.

Yesterday, though, the nightmares were driven out, the darkness was banished. On top of the pile at last, Hill is free of the shadows that have haunted him for so long.

BBC laps up final taste of Walker's unique formula

As John Watson, on Eurosport, neatly put it: "The agony is over." But not for Damon Hill's No 1 fan. The car was parked, the Japanese Grand Prix and Formula One world championship were won, but still Murray Walker was a worried man. Hill had not yet appeared on the balcony.

"This reminds me of an incident in 1989 when..." We never did find out what happened in 1989. At that moment, Hill appeared, the crowd roared and Walker returned to choking back the tears. It was that famous chequered-flag moment all over again. "I'll have to stop now because I've got a lump in my throat," Walker said. One day, there will be a sports quiz show called that, mark my words.

From the off yesterday, Walker's agony had been exquisite. "My mouth is dry, my stomach is churning," he announced shortly before the start. Well, it was early on a Sunday morning. But it soon became clear that, yet again, Walker had got his sentences back to front. It was his mouth that was churning. Never can so much expectation have been quite so comprehensively qualified.

No sooner had Hill made the sort of start that made the whole getting-up-early thing worthwhile than Walker said he did not want to be a Jeremiah, but was not this exactly the same sort of start that Hill had made at Monza? Drat him, he was right. My enthusiasm was suitably dampened.

A few laps later it was Jonathan Palmer's turn to incur a ten-second over-enthusiasm penalty. Taking time off from the counting of gears ("three, four, five") that passes for expert comment, Palmer stuck his neck out: "It now looks as if Damon Hill is all set to go out with a victory." On lap four, this was too much for Walker. "Oh, watch it, Jonathan, watch it - we've all said that sort of thing..." So it continued.

Walker, which is a sensible if not particularly adventurous decision, and rumours that Rider will join him refuse to go away. But who gets to sit next to Walker remains to be seen.

By lap 50 you might have thought that he would have relented. Villeneuve was out (shortly after the Eurosport team noted how much better he was going on his new tyres), and Hill was comfortably in the lead. Not a cloud in the sky, not a puff of smoke to be seen... but still Walker would not be party to anticipation. On Eurosport, Ben Edwards had happily crowned Hill "the new world champion", but our man behind the BBC microphone was having none of that. "There's many a slip between cup and lip." Not to mention lumps in throats.

Amid all the excitement and triumph, a number of significant farewells went all but unnoticed. Back in London, a beaming Steve Rider promised to show us the whole race again in an hour's time and said goodbye, bringing to a low-key close the BBC's uninterrupted live coverage of Formula One. Next year coverage passes to ITV - advertisement breaks and all.

It may yet also be farewell to Eurosport's coverage. Negotiations over pan-European rights for next season have dragged on for months and are still not resolved. Loss of live coverage would be a devastating blow to the Paris-based channel and a sad loss to viewers who find Watson and Edwards a relaxed and knowledgeable haven when Walker and Palmer are having one of their off-days.

ITV has already signed up Walker, which is a sensible if not particularly adventurous decision, and rumours that Rider will join him refuse to go away. But who gets to sit next to Walker remains to be seen.



Schumacher, left, and Hakkinen douse Hill with champagne after his triumph

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Wright tightens Blackburn noose

Wright wheeled and ran

As Wenger held the door of the media suite open for Harford, long after the match, this sensitive Frenchman could not have known what consequences his joy might reap in Lancashire. "I did not hear any chants towards Harford, I tell you that sincerely," Wenger said. "It would be a pity because I like

Wright's measured shot sets Arsenal on course for victory against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park

In the divided emotion of Saturday, Harford conceded that, while he will try not to let a vocal minority change his plans and his future, he knows that that future may be no more than the next match. Managers talk of wishing to be judged after ten matches of the season; after nine, Blackburn are the only club in professional English football without a league victory.



BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kennel, N Marker, H Bang, G Croft — G Dones (sub. S Ripley, 62min), T Sherwood, L Bohinen, J Wilcox, (sub. N Gudmundsson, 75) — C Sutton, J Beattie.

ARSENAL (3-5-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Adams, S Boukid — L Dixon, P Merson, P Viera, D Platt, N Winterburn — I Whigell, J Harrison (sub. R ParLOUR, 86).

Referee: S Durin

we didn't have problems against the top clubs last season; it was the sides we were expected to beat that caused us most difficulty. This year, we have looked a little less flamboyant in those games — but won them. The

It is going to be a hell of a competition this time, and I am really looking forward to it. We might have lost, but I still believe that we are equipped to bridge that gap and challenge strongly at the top. United can expect even more pressure than they experienced on Saturday.

After three defeats in a row at the start of the Premiership campaign, Wimbledon's critics were rubbing their hands with glee. At last, after 11 seasons, the lunatics were preparing to leave the asylum: good riddance. Seven weeks on, everything has changed.

Kinnear has collected the manager-of-the-month award. In his fourth, and Wimbledon have scored 16 goals, conceding only three, in their six-match sequence. Whisper it gently but the Gang have got a whiff of continental combat, and are going for it.

WIMBLEDON (14-2) N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Penn, B McAlester (sub), D Blackwell, 28m; B Thatcher — N Ardley, V Jones, R Earle, G Leonardson (sub), A Jumble, 80; M Gayle, E Eboke (sub), D Holdsworth, 80)

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (14-2) K Pressman — P Atherton (sub, S goal, 76), J Newsome, D Stefanovic (sub), S Oakes, 71; Nolan — G Whittingham (sub), G Trustfull, 6; G Hyde, M Parrbridge, R Bunker — D Hirst, A Booth.

Referee: M Flay

John Barnes, his captain, said: "We were top of the league unbeaten before this match — yet that was the best we've played. If it wasn't for interceptions a yard in front of the line, by David May and

Giggs is restrained by the efforts of McAteer, left, and Thomas at Old Trafford. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Schmechel — G. Novella, D. Mayr, R.
 Johnson, D. Irwin — K. Paborsky (sub. P.
 Scholze, 55min), N. Rutt, D. Beckham, J.
 Cruik — E. Cantona — G. G. Schijper (sub.
 R. Gips, 80)
LIVERPOOL (3-4-2-1): G. Barnes — J.
 Sealey (sub. J. Redknapp, 80), D. Mullen,
 P. Babb — J. McAteer, M. Thomas, J. Barnes,
 S. Bramble — S. McKinnaman, P. Binger
 — S. Collymore
 Referee: D. Flannery

At least Leeds, who went into the game with the worst defensive record in the FA Carling Premiership, kept a clean sheet, but that owed as much to Forest's poor finishing as to Graham working the

EDS UNITED (3-4-1) 2: H. Martin - 1
R. Marshall 1 J. Johnson 1 L. Adams - 1 G. L.
Buzar - 1 A. D. George 1 J. Smith 1 M. Ford 1
J. Smith - 1 R. Wallace - 1 J. Halsey 1 Rush
M. Johnson 88.

OTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-1) 11
J. Hardy - 1 S. Blamire 1 C. Cooper 3
J. Smith - 1 D. Little 1 J. A. H. H. 1 J. 1
J. Smith 1 B. 1 J. 1 C. 1 J. 1
C. 1 A. 1 C. 1 J. 1

Giggs is restrained by the efforts of McAteer, left, and Thomas at Old Trafford. Photograph: Julian Herbert

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P
Schmeichel - G Neville, D May, R
Johnston, D Irwin - K Robson (sub)
Scholtes, Sörnén, N Rust, D Beckham, J
Cruijff - F Cantona - O G Solskjær (sub)
R Gigg, 80)

LIVERPOOL (3-4-2-1): D James - J
Sealey (sub, J Redington, 80), D Maitland, P
Babb - J McAuley, M Thomas, J Barnes,
S I Broombyre - S McMahon, P Borgeat
S Collymore
Barnes, P Borgeat

FOOTBALL

Coventry cancel out Le Tissier's moment of magic

Coventry City 1
Southampton 1

BY DAVID MILLER

WHEN a club runs out of programmes in the press room nearly an hour before kick-off, and has a sponsored stretcher — Blogs Bandages, or some such — you know that they are in trouble. At Coventry City, it could also have something to do with the £17 million spent by Ron Atkinson, their manager, a sizeable lump of which still belongs to the banks.

Yesterday, Coventry managed a last-ditch draw, in injury time at the climax of a frenzied match. They and Southampton thus gained their sixth points of the season each. The goal came as Salako crossed from the left, Telfer came in beyond the far post to strike a low drive. Moss, the goalkeeper, failed to hold the ball and Dublin, having come on substitute 30 minutes from the end — dropped after failing to score in his last 16 matches — swept home the rebound. Home joy was unconfined.

The result was the more important for Coventry in view of who were their opponents — fellow occupants of the FA Carling Premiership basement. There are two competitions in any Premiership season — the first to win it, the second, by the majority of clubs, to remain present when it starts all over again. Coventry and Southampton are usually pre-occupied with the latter.

"Our heads didn't go

down," a relieved Atkinson said afterwards. "If Southampton had won, it would have demoralised our players." He added that Dublin's might prove to be the club's most important goal of the season.

A ray of hope lies in Ndlovu who came on as a substitute early in the second half, having been absent for many months after injury and a cartilage operation. His electric running on the left flank helped to turn the tide against a Southampton team that had dominated the first hour.

Indeed, Southampton had seemed likely to win courtesy of a peach of a goal by Le

Full results and league tables Page 33

Tissier. It could be said that Le Tissier occupies a role unique in English football, that of the fringe matchwinner. If, in the way that truck drivers have tachometers, footballers wore sweat meters, the graph on Le Tissier's would seldom climb very high. He may be in the England squad, but he is, mostly, a peripheral figure within Southampton's midfield, until those moments when he unveils his particular skills on the ball. Yesterday, he did so after 17 minutes. Atkinson afterwards called it "a wonder goal".

Watson had made one of his bustling runs down the right, fired the ball low into the penalty area and Ogrizovic, advancing from goal to intercept, missed the ball under

pressure from Shipperley. Borrows, the right back, attempted to clear, did so ineffectually and the ball was slid into the path of Le Tissier by Shipperley. From 28 yards, Le Tissier took aim and curled the ball high and wide with his right foot into the top left corner of the net — and all done without a flourish. We were not to see much more of him after that.

It will be a long, hard road for Coventry through to next May. They are the lowest scorers in the division, their aggregate being four scored, 14 conceded. Until Dublin and Ndlovu belatedly arrived on the pitch, their attack carried not much more substance than the tinset-dad cheerleaders who attempted to rouse crowd morale beforehand and at half-time.

To give Jess his due, he moved into attacking positions from midfield with intelligence and had been unlucky not to give Coventry the lead three minutes before Le Tissier's goal, when a rebound flew straight to him on the edge of the penalty area. Yet no matter how hard Coventry worked, Southampton consistently deflected them with resolute tackling and heading.

Ndlovu came on early in the second half in place of Borrows, which necessitated Telfer dropping back from midfield to full back. Ndlovu making repeated sprints at Slater down Southampton's right flank, it began to take effect and the temperature of the crowd soared when this slender dribbler wove his way past four opponents be-



Le Tissier is fouled by the grounded Burrows at Highfield Road yesterday

fore finally finding his path blocked.

Although Coventry's problem might appear to be a lack of goals, yesterday it seemed also to be one of formation.

For much of the match, they were playing with three attackers — Whelan in the middle and Salako and Telfer on the flanks — with Jess in

behind Whelan. This left only McAllister and Richardson to perform the hard graft of ball-winning in midfield, where Southampton, unsurprisingly, had an edge.

Coventry's luck seemed out in the 59th minute when Dublin and Salako opened the defence for Ndlovu to crack a close-range shot, only to

see it rebound clear off Moss's body. Salvation came in injury-time.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Davies — B. Borrows (sub: P. Nelson, 58m), D. Burrows (sub: P. Williams, 37), L. Dashi, M. Hall — P. Telfer, G. McAllister, E. Jess, K. Richardson — M. Whelan, J. Salako.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): N. Moss — R. Slater, C. Lushington, J. Dodd, R. Dryden — J. Magilton, A. Nielsen, M. Charlton — M. Le Tissier, D. Watson (sub: E. Bericovic, 60), N. Shepperson (sub: E. Ostrander, 55). Referee: P. Durkin.

Repentant Bosnich affords Villa little comfort

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Aston Villa 0

BY BRIAN GLANVILLE

WHY did Mark Bosnich do it? Why did he give a Nazi salute to the crowd behind his goal at White Hart Lane, where he was playing for Aston Villa? The salute led to police questioning, his own abject apology and a probable inquiry by the Football Association.

The gesture was provoked, curiously, by the fans' chant of "There's only one Jürgen Klinsmann". Itself provoked by the goalkeeper's wild lunging at the Germany forward in a match against Tottenham at Villa Park in February 1995.

Since Klinsmann was the subject of that chant, the salute could hardly have been anti-German. Might it have had more to do with the old nickname of 'Tottenham Yids', long since cheerfully assumed by Tottenham's fans, the bulk of whom, behind that goal, were certainly not Jewish?

Bosnich, who was interviewed by police after the match, later issued a public apology for his action on the BBC Radio phone-in programme, *Six-O-Six*. "I am so sorry if I upset or offended anybody, but I think it is a sad indictment of society that things like this are now taken right out of context," he said.

Whatever the explanation, the incident, which resulted in Bosnich being booked, overshadowed this mediocre game. Tottenham won it — their first home league victory of the season — through a second-half goal by Allan Nielsen.

Ruel Fox, Tottenham's lively right-winger, put over a cross, which Nielsen ran on to. He headed the ball on and it took a slightly fortuitous deflection off Ehiogu's hand before the Denmark midfielder player struck his shot home.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, had an air of resignation about him. "I said at half-time that we were going to be a team that's quite interesting to watch play, and that might not win many games. There's a little bit of purpose missing at the moment. There's that killer instinct

missing. At the moment, we're going out there to play, but we've got to add a little bit of something."

To their shame, Villa are already out of the UEFA Cup, eliminated by the modest Helsingborgs, of Sweden. Sasa Curcic was not eligible for those two games and would surely have made a difference. The slender Yugoslav, praised by Little — "I think he had, at times, an outstanding game" — was the chief consolation for Villa. Some of his slaloms were astonishing, small miracles of balance and dexterity, as he glided past defenders who seemed sure to stop him.

Curcic drove one close range shot over the crossbar late in the game and, almost at once, when Johnson crossed and the disappointing Yorke fumbled, banged in a drive which Walker gallantly turned round his left-hand post.

Curcic and his midfield colleague, Draper, controlled the game for much of the first half but with Villa's



Bosnich gives his Nazi salute

strikers — Yorke, and the heavily left-footed Milosevic — responding so ineffectually, it was surprising Little did not bring on Johnson and Joachim much earlier in the game.

Throwing on all three substitutes at once smacked of desperation.

The odd thing was that Tottenham improved after losing one of their most effective players, Sinton, the left winger, with damaged knee ligaments.

Dominant for much of the second half, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, admitted that his team, ultimately, "had to stand firm and defend right to the final whistle." In the event, they held out, but everyone was talking about Bosnich.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): J. Walker — S. Carr, C. Caldwell, S. Campbell, C. Wilson — R. Fox, A. Nielsen (sub: E. Metherell, 58m), D. Howells, A. Sinton (sub: J. Edgar, 57) — E. Shepperson, Armstrong.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bosnich — S. Stanton, U. Shogbo, J. Taylor, M. Duggan, M. Draper (sub: J. Magilton, 76), A. Townsend (sub: C. Lee, 76), S. Curcic, A. Wright — S. Milosevic (sub: T. Johnson, 76), D. Yorke. Referee: P. Jones (Leicester).

Prudhoe blunder saves Port Vale

Port Vale 1
Stoke City 1

BY RICHARD HOBSON

DRESSED in a sober, dark suit, perhaps his Sunday best, John Rudge, the Port Vale manager, bore the grim appearance of an undertaker through most of this game. At the end, though, he could not conceal a smile as a last-gasp equaliser belatedly brought his team and the game to life.

Ken Leach, the referee, had played four minutes of injury time when a looping cross from Steve Guppy found a strong following wind and drifted beyond Mark Prudhoe, the Stoke City goalkeeper. Lee Mills headed it into the unprotected net and home supporters immediately rushed on to the pitch to celebrate with a mixture of disbelief and glee.

"I can hardly believe it," Lou Macari, the Stoke manager, said. "Prudhoe could have caught it in his mouth, let alone his hands. It was that easy."

For most of the game, Stoke were far more constructive and deserved to take the lead after 65 minutes. The substitute, Kevin Keen, met a swinging cross from the right from Ally Pickering and, although his stooping header carried little power, it trickled slowly inside the far post.

Rudge went as far as to suggest that it travelled with so little pace that the wind blew it back towards the goal when it looked to be going wide.

Two soft goals were all a poor game deserved, and for a local derby it was not played

with a great deal of passion either.

Mike Sheron tried manfully up front for Stoke while Graham Kavanagh offered intelligent support when he moved forward in the second half. Vale's strategy, with five men strung across the midfield, rarely went beyond plain hustle and bustle.

"It was scrappy with not a lot of quality," Rudge said. "Neither side created much and you have to say it was a dour struggle."

Ian Bogie scored the winner for Vale after just 12 seconds on the last encounter between these sides here, in March. This time, with the notable exception of a chipped effort from Tony Naylor that hit the post, there was little to excite in the first half.

Gerry McMahon snatched an opportunity, having dispossessed Gareth Griffiths, and Arjan Van Heusden positioned himself well to have a long-range free kick from Kavanagh. There were signs when play resumed, however, that Vale might profit if they continued to loft balls into the penalty area.

One such centre by Jon McCarthy on the right enticed Prudhoe off his line, and the sole benefit of the goalkeeper's flap at thin air was to distract the line of vision of Mills. Most annoyingly for Macari, his goalkeeper failed to heed the lesson of that mistake.

PORT VALE (4-5-1): A. Van Heusden — A. Hall (sub: M. Foye, 87 min), G. Griffiths, M. Apple (sub: D. Glover, 89), A. Tarkenton — J. McCarthy, S. Talbot, A. Popham, I. Bogie (sub: L. Mills, 47), S. Guppy — T. Naylor.

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): M. Prudhoe — A. Pickering, L. Segerson, C. Dryden, M. Worthington — M. Dowling (sub: J. Wright, 86), G. Kavanagh, R. Wallace, R. Forth — M. Sheron (sub: M. Macari, 90), G. McKinnon (sub: P. Keen, 45). Referee: K. Leach.

Redknapp consoled by Porfirio's skill

Everton 2
West Ham United 1

BY PAT GIBSON

IT WAS one of those rare days when Everton won and Liverpool lost but there was still no great feeling of euphoria at Goodison Park. The Merseyside derby looms at Anfield next Sunday and not even the most blue-eyed Evertonian would have given Julian Dicks much of an argument when he said: "If they play like that, Liverpool will destroy them."

Dicks, the West Ham United captain, is biased, of course, since he enjoyed his brief time on the other side of Stanley Park and would love to see Liverpool win. He was also speaking with a mouthful of sour grapes in his disappointment that West Ham had not turned all their possession into more than one goal — a penalty, blasted home by Dicks four minutes from the end.

He did have a point, however. Everton, already without Ferguson, Rideout and Watson, suffered further injuries to Parkinson (hamstring) and Ebbrell (ankle ligaments) and their manager, Joe Royle, admitted: "We were a bit disappointed at times."

Royle was consoled by the three points that lifted Everton into the top ten of the FA Carling Premiership but, having spent much of the past fortnight scouring the Continent for new talent, he was casting covetous eyes at Hugo Porfirio, the latest addition to the foreign legion that Harry Redknapp, his West Ham counterpart, has assembled at

Luton Park. "That Portuguese lad looks a bit useful," he sighed. "I think he might have one of the finds there."

Redknapp is sure he has. Porfirio, who is on loan from Sporting Lisbon with a view to a £2.2 million transfer, was a revelation in his first full game. "He's something else, isn't he," Redknapp enthused. "A special talent."

The first time he ran at the Everton defence in the eighth minute, Short scythed him down but the referee, Graham Barber, ignored West Ham's frenzied appeals for a penalty that could have changed the course of the game. The last time he did it, Hinchcliffe took his legs again and not even Barber could deny him his just reward.

In between times, however, Everton had won the game. They went ahead in the fourteenth minute when Parkinson's shot was deflected to the left of the West Ham goal, where Hinchcliffe whipped in a low cross that Stuart ramped past Mikosko.

Then, after the enduring Southall had thwarted West Ham's best efforts with magnificent saves from Dowie, Dicks and Hughes, Everton's crispest passing move of the match, constructed down the left, led to Barrett slipping the ball to Speed, who scored with a left-foot shot that Mikosko could have saved. It was the story of West Ham's afternoon.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N. Southall — E. Barnett, C. Short, D. Unsworth, A. Hinchcliffe — A. Parkinson, J. Eccles (sub: M. Morgan, 45m), J. Parkinson (sub: T. Grant, 14), G. Speed — G. Stuart, M. Barnett.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L. Mikosko — S. Potts (sub: S. Redwood, 30), S. Bile, J. Davis — M. Bowen, I. Barrow (sub: I. Pritchard, 95), M. Hughes, J. Moncur, K. Howard — H. Porfirio, J. Dowie. Referee: K. Baxter.

West strikes blow for common sense

Southend United 1
Wolverhampton W 1

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IF THE reports are to be believed, a subtle mood change was detected at many grounds around the country over the weekend. Referees, the bane of the professional football, had, in a sudden and unexpected outbreak of leniency, adopted a more sympathetic stance.

Should the subsequent statistics back up the general feeling, Trevor West, the referee at Roots Hall yesterday, will have done his bit for the promotion of greater understanding and harmony between players and officials.

He issued neither yellow nor red card, in a keenly contested Nationwide League first division rattle, and instead used verbal persuasion as his most potent weapon.

Thus, Southend United and Wolverhampton Wanderers knew where they stood throughout. Not once did they abuse the privilege and, although the occasional niggles was witnessed, it was soon quelled by the mildest of rebukes from West. After all, it is not wise to mess with a police sergeant.

However, other than West's sensible, placid approach, there was little to enthuse about on a pleasant, sunny afternoon in Essex. Southend will feel annoyed at not winning, on their live debut on extraterrestrial television, while Wolverhampton, shorn of seven players by injuries, will gratefully accept a point when they could so easily have left with nothing.

In Marsh, formerly of Liverpool, West Ham United and Galatasaray, Southend had the most effective performer. His career may have seen better days, in more enticed company, but he can still dominate by speed of thought and preciseness of pass.

Had his team-mates been able to match Marsh's exploits, or provide greater support, Wolverhampton would have been ground down long before Bull's 73rd-minute equaliser, when he nodded in a cross by Venus from close range.

Instead, all Southend had to show for their worthy early efforts was a neatly executed goal from Marsh. "I was reasonably happy with the display but a bit disappointed with the result," Ronnie Whelan, the Southend manager, said. "We always seem to do that — play well in the first half and then relax after the break. It's something we've got to sort out."

Southend had gone ahead in the 38th minute, with West again playing a key role. Many officials would have penalised Marsh's fierce tackle on Dove, but West, standing only a few feet away, staged a fair challenge as Marsh gained possession. Nielsen, then wheeled away to the left, pulled the ball back to the edge of the area and Marsh supplied the first-time finish past Stowell, aided by a deflection off Richards.

SOUTHEND UNITED (4-4-2): S. Royce — A. Hume, M. Lappin, M. Hootley, K. Cadden — B. Byrne, M. Marsh, J. Nielsen (sub: P. Giddey, 76m), S. Tilton — P. Williams, J. Bost (sub: A. Bennett, 75).

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-4-1-2): M. Stowell — D. Richards, M. Adams, M. Venus — J. Smith (sub: S. Rennie, 77), J. Dove, R. van der Laan, S. Froggatt — S. Corica (sub: R. Leadbeater, 75) — S. Bull, G. Cross. Referee: T. West.

Newcastle on summit as Keegan preaches new creed

Derby County 0
Newcastle United 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

A CONTENTED smile, a twinkle in his eyes, Kevin Keegan's conversion to stoicism has an almost evangelical zeal. The after-match sermon was a paean to the prosaic, and he called upon words like "resilience", "tough", and "work-rate" to describe Newcastle United's performance. "No one calls us the enterprisers any more. We are the grinders," he laughed. He was, of course, exaggerating, for there is too much flair and personality in his team to remain bridled for any length of time, but there is now a distinctively gritty edge to their canon.

Much of their belligerence comes from David Batty. In the professional game, his style of play, all hurry and scurry, is known as "ratting". Although Lee and Beardsley play the role with more finesse, Batty is the King Rat and his ode to joy is a shined rattled or an ankle clipped.

"I'm pleased with our performance," Keegan said. "We restricted them to very few chances, and showed a lot of resilience. Derby is not an easy place to come to and get a result. We have a tremendous team spirit — and you can't buy that."

That spirit is most evident in players modifying their natural game for the greater good. Philippe Albert remained steadfast in defence, Les Ferdinand routinely covered for his full backs, and Keith Gillespie, so often a player of great virtuosity, joined in the midfield symphony of tackle upon tackle.

Derby were not overawed, and set out their rigid game plan accordingly. Their best chance came soon after half-time, when Duffly shot fiercely and Snieck saved magnificently.

Alan Shearer appeared to dive over a challenge from Darryl Powell in midfield, and his behaviour thereafter was most unbecoming. He chased after the referee, appealing for a foul, and when his hostile advances were spurned, he clapped sarcastically above his head.

A far more agreeable portrait of Shearer was only minutes away. Beresford swung in a free kick, Albert appeared to get the faintest of touches, and the ball fell to Shearer deep in Derby's penalty area. He took one touch to steady both himself and the ball; the right leg was retracted ready to strike; the ball hit the net. Simplicity itself.

Jim Smith, the Derby manager, introduced Gabbiadini for the tiring Sturridge, and the hyperactive substitute set about Newcastle with relish. He sent a shot spinning over Snieck and the goalkeeper had to retreat hastily to steer it over the bar as he collided with the goalpost. Darryl Powell shot well with just four minutes remaining, but Snieck was again on hand.

The victory has lifted Newcastle to the top of the FA Carling Premiership, a position to which they are not unaccustomed. Keegan patiently believes that his team's new *modus operandi* will keep them in situ, but Newcastle United and a season of dogged 1-0 away wins takes some believing, even for a born-again stoic.

DERBY COUNTY (3-3-2): R. Hout — G. Rowell, J. Leighton (sub: S. Ryan, 63m), P. McGee, J. Smith, C. Powell (sub: Simpson, 88) — G. Duffly, D. Powell, A. Aspinwall — A. West, D. Sturridge (sub: M. Gosselin, 86).

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): P. Shearer — S. Watson, D. Beardsley, P. Albert, J. Beardsley, R. Lee — A. Shearer, L. Ferdinand. Referee: M. Bodenham.

Outcome settled by Gullit's half-time alterations

Leicester City 1
Chelsea 3

BY KEITH PINE

WOOLING women from the ironing board to the television set during the European championship is one thing, wowing fashion critics another, but does Ruud Gullit have the more fundamental qualities — ruthlessness, bottle, call it what you will — to progress from playing genius to managerial maestro? The question was asked on Saturday, and answered emphatically.

The most eloquent of the BBC's studio experts in the summer, the winner of several "best-dressed" awards, Gullit can now add another multilingual line to his CV: taker of hard decisions. For it was Gullit's bravery that proved decisive as Chelsea turned potential embarrassment into emphatic FA Carling Premiership victory at Filbert Street.

Gullit admitted that the decisions to leave Gianluca Vialli out of his starting lineup, and then to leave Dennis Wise in the dressing room at half-time, were the hardest of his fledgeling career. The Italian striker, after all, costs Chelsea around £28,000 a week, while the diminutive Londoner is the club captain and terrace darling. But the fact that Chelsea transformed the game from 1-0 down, and struggling, to 3-1 up, and cruising, was vindication enough.

"Was I right? Look at the result," Gullit said, managing to make his point without a hint of smugness. "As a manager you have to do what is best for the team. They were difficult decisions, but I had to make them." And this from someone who has not been averse to taking his ball home in a sulk when managers have irked him. The words "poacher" and "gamekeeper" spring to mind. And "decisive". And "right".

It was Newton, Wise's replacement and playing his first game since breaking a leg eight months ago, who turned the game every bit as much as Vialli, winning tackles that Wise, and others, had earlier not even made, and allowing the superstars to strut their stuff. "We have missed Eddie badly," Gullit said. "He is as important to us as Roy Keane is to Manchester United and (Ian) Wright is to the Dutch national side."

Inevitably, though, it was Vialli who grabbed the glory. Turning athletically on the edge of the area, his low shot beat Kellar two minutes after the restart, cancelling out Watt's first-half goal for Leicester City — the least they deserved for their initial dominance — and giving Chelsea some momentum.

Vialli then delivered a majestic pass to Di Matteo for Chelsea's second goal and set up Hughes for an easy third. Game, set and match... but to Vialli or Gullit?

"The manager has to make the decisions, and we have to respect them," Vialli said. In other words, he was miffed about not starting, tight hamstring notwithstanding.

Yet he was desperate to dismiss rumours that he is unhappy at Stamford Bridge and, given every opportunity to criticise Gullit, refused to do so. "The team won, and that is the most important thing," he said. Gullit would have approved.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K. Kellar — S. Prior, S. Walsh, J. Watts — S. Grayson, M. Spink, M. Lennon, G. Parker, M. Wright — I. Marshall, E. Heskey.

CHELSEA (3-5-2): K. Hirstcock — E. Johnson, F. Lescot, S. Clare, D. Pethica, C. Butler, R. Di Matteo, D. Watt (sub: E. Newton, 48m), A. Hughes — M. Hughes, M. Nichols (sub: G. Vialli, 45). Referee: M. Reed.

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GOLF: VICTORIES BY MICKELSON AND STRICKER END NEW ZEALAND CHALLENGE ON OLD COURSE AT ST ANDREWS

United States seal Dunhill Cup treble

BY JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NOT often is the Old Course bathed in a sun and light of such benevolence and beauty as it was for the final of the Dunhill Cup yesterday. A painter of repute would be required to do justice to the glory of the scene at St Andrews, where the United States defeated New Zealand 2-1 to win this team competition.

Sadly, though, some of the lustre was taken from the occasion of the third victory by the United States in an unseemly row between Phil Mickelson and Jarmo Sandelin, of Sweden, after they had met in a morning semi-final. In the main, the sportsmanship demonstrated at recent Ryder and Presidents Cup matches has been enviable enough to earn praise from those inside and outside golf.

Mickelson did not feel that Sandelin's behaviour after beating Nick Price in the Sweden versus Zimbabwe match on Friday, and over the opening holes against him yesterday morning, matched these standards. "These are wonderful events that promote sportsmanship and camaraderie internationally," Mickelson said. "I think it is important to keep these events in high esteem and to promote good sportsmanship." When Sandelin beat Price, Mickelson said, "it could have been handled better by the Swede".

So Mickelson has something to get off his chest even before he and the Swede began their match. Mickelson's humour was not improved by the fact that he was not playing particularly well and was trailing the Swede by two strokes when they reached the 12th tee. Sandelin uses a 51-inch driver, with which he clubs the ball enormous distances, and is given to expressive outbursts at moments of success.

"I just tried to make my putts and was happy when I did," Sandelin said, "but I did not really and I can't understand why he said these things. I just showed I was pleased when I holed putts." Having defeated the Swedes 2-1 in the morning, the Americans shuffled their order, putting Steve Stricker into the third spot for the final, where he was to meet Grant Waite, the man whose victory over Wayne Westner at the third extra hole in the morning had dismissed South Africa from the competition.

The more one sees of



Light haze descends at the end of a glorious day at St Andrews as the United States team moves towards winning the title again

Stricker the more impressive he looks. His face is that of a teenager, his golf that of a player verging on world class. An outcrop of blond hair at the back of his head only adds to the impression that he should be studying political science at Yale, not, as he did this week, beating all five of his opponents in this event.

Waite was no match for Stricker. Though Waite held the lead early on, he could not match Stricker's consistency over the inward nine and, anyway, failed to get out of the Road Hole bunker at his first attempt. Stricker's 67 was his lowest round of the week.

Frank Nobilo held off Mark O'Meara, winning by three strokes. O'Meara, these days, has something of the old soldier about him. Broad-shouldered and stocky, and greying at the edges, he walks the fairways with his arms swinging vigorously. O'Meara is having one of his

most successful seasons, but when Nobilo made two definitive thrusts he had no answer. The first came when the New Zealander struck a remarkable shot from Hell bunker on the 14th to set up a

birdie. The second was a wonderful curling putt for a four on the 16th. Nobilo's putt had at least two yards of borrow and he judged it so well it caught the left edge before spinning away.

O'Meara three-putted. Any chance O'Meara had of catching Nobilo, by now three strokes ahead, disappeared when Nobilo got a four on the 17th from the Road Hole bunker.

So Mickelson, the leader of the American money-list, was in a situation he relishes, being the centre of attraction. As he did against the Englishman, Lee Westwood, he began to play better the longer the game went on. He drew level when Greg Turner, three-putted the 13th and got two more strokes ahead on the 16th. Turner took a five but Mickelson's second, hit with a three-iron, pitched past the hole and, under the influence of the spin he had put on it, began working its way back until it stopped less than three feet away.

The United States won because of their strength in depth. Stricker was unbeaten, Mickelson pulled himself out of two tight corners and was never over par. O'Meara led from the front. "We felt that we had assembled a quality team," O'Meara said. And so it proved. They won £100,000 each for their week's work.

DUNHILL CUP RESULTS AND TABLES

GROUP ONE: United States 3 Spain 0 (United States names first): M O'Meara 67, M A Jimenez 68, S Stricker 70, D D Jimenez 74, P Mickelson 68, D Garrido 72, Italy 2 England 1 (Italy names first): C Rocca 72, L Westwood 74, S Grappasonni 68, L Lomas 68, E Canonica 76, lost to S Lane 74.

PW L Games Pts won
United States 3 0 7 3
England 3 1 2 5
Italy 3 1 2 4
Spain 3 1 2 2

GROUP TWO: Zimbabwe 2 Scotland 1 (Zimbabwe names first): A Johnston 70, B A Cottrell 72, M McNulty 69, C Montgomery 72, N Price 78, lost to R Russell 72, India 0 Sweden 3 (India names first): J Singh 74, lost to P Siotard 68, G Ghel 72, lost to P Siotard 68, A Sher 73, lost to J Sandelin 72.

PW L Games Pts won
Sweden 3 0 6 3
Zimbabwe 3 1 4 2
India 3 1 2 3
Scotland 3 0 3 0

GROUP THREE: Canada 1 Wales 2 (Canada names first): R Gibson 71, M McLeod 75, J Rusdodge 72, lost to P Price 71, R Todd 72, lost to P Africa 70, South Africa 2 Ireland 1 (South Africa names first): R Goosen 70, D Clarke 70, at 18th: E Els 71, lost to P McGinley 68, W Weir 68, lost to P Harrington 70.

PW L Games Pts won
South Africa 3 0 6 3
Ireland 3 1 2 5
Wales 3 1 2 4
Canada 3 0 3 0

GROUP FOUR: Australia 0 New Zealand 3 (Australia names first): W Zeyl 76, lost to G West 68, S Ellegren 67, G West 73.

73, lost to G Turner 69, G Norman 68, lost to F Nobilo 66, Japan 1 Germany 2 (Japan names first): N Ozaki 72, lost to S Stricker 70, H Mashai 77, lost to T Gogole 71, K Takami 73, lost to H P Thul 74.

PW L Games Pts won
New Zealand 3 2 1 6
Australia 3 2 1 5
Japan 3 1 2 4
Germany 3 1 2 3

SEMI-FINALS: United States 2 Sweden 1 (United States names first): M O'Meara 68, P P Macdonald 74, S Stricker 70, lost to P Sandelin 68, South Africa 1 New Zealand 2 (South Africa names first): W Westner 74, lost to G Turner 71, E Els 68, lost to F Nobilo 72.

FINAL: United States 2 New Zealand 1 (United States names first): M O'Meara 72, lost to F Nobilo 68, P Mickelson 69, lost to G Turner 72, S Stricker 67, G West 73.

our 5,000 miles to Rio. It seems to get hotter and more humid daily with shorts and T-shirts the order, even at night. Working below decks is horrendous and cool places to sleep are at a premium. I'm sure that in the coming months when we are in the icebergs infested Southern Ocean we will look back with longing. Twenty-four hours a day the boat is racing and we wait for the race position updates to see how we are doing. We have already logged the longest distance run in a 24-hour period when we ran over 240 miles which included a night spent in a rolling sea in 35 knots of wind, surfing down waves and never going under 12 knots.

I remember hearing and having to use all my strength to stop the boat rounding up and broaching — it was both terrifying and exhilarating. I have managed to phone home a couple of times. My wife, Tracy, tells me she has written a piece for *The Times* which, among other things, prompted Chay Blyth to write to her — although she will not tell me what she said so I'll probably be sacked from the boat in Rio.

The most important topic, though, has been the birth of our third child. Although always chippy on the phone, I know Tracy worries, as do I, and I'm waiting for any news.

James Capstick tells how an unusual visitor made its presence felt on the control gear

BT Global Challenge

Kennedy, is a fully paid up member of Shark Watch. Later on the same day another event occurred again while I was off duty. I was summoned on deck to see at first hand the effect of what is referred to in nautical terms as "banging the kite". When a kite is banged 3,500sq ft of perfectly serviceable sailcloth is turned into confetti and, as one of the two aboard with special responsibility for sail

repairs, I was left with the task of putting it back together. We are presently on day three — and still sewing. Life aboard *Ocean Rover* has become a bit like police work with long periods of routine interrupted by short periods of hyperactivity. We have been at sea now for about 14 days and are presently storming down the coast of Africa towards the equator, having sailed about half of



Last-race despair for British pairing

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA

THIS has been a successful year for John Merricks and Ian Walker, yet they remain without a title to their names.

This weekend it all slipped away from them again on the last race when Giorgio Zucchi, the defending Glenfiddich Melges 24 European title-holder from Italy, nipped past them and then sailed a blinder to pull off an unlikely overall victory to retain the championship.

Merricks and Walker, sailing with Nick Powell and Mark Tomson on *Glenfiddich 3*, had dominated the series from the off with a first and a second place

in races one and two and then solid performances in the next three races. They had a comfortable lead of 11 points over Zucchi going into the last race on Saturday and few here saw how they could possibly lose.

But Zucchi, on *Ale Ali Reiter*, produced an extraordinary finale. He overtook the British pairing downwind to promote himself to seventh place and then, in Merricks's own words, "smoked off the whole fleet" upwind, to win. Merricks and Walker slipped to eleventh and lost the championship by 5.7 points. Third overall, a further 11 points adrift, was Kenneth Thelen, from Finland, on *Karl Frazer Blue Magic*.

Merricks and Walker lost the 470 world

championship earlier this year only because their coach failed to calculate their overall position in the fleet correctly going into the last race. They then had to settle for silver at the Olympics and second place again at the Melges national championship in early September behind Mike Lennon.

None of this, however, should obscure the fact that their performance was of the highest order in one of Europe's most talented and competitive fleets. It will have done no harm to their chances of winning sponsorship for Ultras and 18-Foot Skiffs next year nor Merricks's determination to be at the helm of a Mumm 36 in a British team in the Admiral's Cup.

SQUASH

FitzGerald powers to quickfire victory

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN
IN PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA

SARAH FITZGERALD, of Australia, produced one of the great women's performances of modern times to beat Cassandra Jackman, of Great Britain, 9-0, 9-3, 9-4 in the fastest time on record, just 29 minutes.

FitzGerald, 27, the No 2 seed, from Melbourne, thus became the first woman to convert a world junior championship into a world open title. "I came here to beat Michelle Martin," she said yesterday. "I was so totally focused that I couldn't let go even when I hit the winning shot."

Martin, 29, the defending champion, was unexpectedly beaten in the quarter-finals by the No 5 seed, Liz Irving, who was then overturned by Jackman, 23, in an astonishing 76-minute semi-final on Saturday.

Jackman, the No 4 seed, from Norfolk, played throughout the tournament with strength, speed and commitment, yet for the first 12 rallies of the final could not find a gap in the ferocious early-ball assault of FitzGerald.

Certainly the hand of fate refused to reach out for Jackman in the manner of her semi-final win against Irving. Then, a backhand mishit from Irving allowed the English girl back into the fifth game, and converted imminent defeat into a 9-5, 9-6, 4-9, 4-9, 10-8 victory.

That discipline continued into the final. Against any other player, perhaps even against this opponent on any other day, Jackman would have seized the early initiative. Instead, she had to persevere through 13 rallies before a clever, wrong-footing, backhand short-angled drop shot provided her first winner.

FitzGerald took the six-minute opening game in a single hand from her second service, the 12-minute second game in seven forceful hands, and the nine-minute third in four hands. She made just five unforced errors in the match.

It was a continuation of the form in which she brushed aside Sue Wright, from Kent, 9-3, 9-4, 9-1 in a 34-minute semi-final on Saturday and completed the tournament without dropping a game.

Photograph, page 40

HOCKEY

Undeclared run ended by Barford

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

OLD LOUGHTONIANS suffered their first defeat in the premier division of the National League when they were beaten 2-1 by Barford Tigers yesterday, after a 2-0 victory over Havant on Saturday.

Julian Halls, the mainstay of the Old Loughtonians defence, was unavailable for both matches and his preoccupation with coaching duties in Guernsey will also keep him away this weekend. Without him, Barford took control of the match yesterday, with goals in the first half by Amarjit Degun and Jimmy Singh. Lee replied for Old Loughtonians eight minutes before the end.

In the earlier of two matches yesterday at Chiswick, East Grinstead lost control of a game that they should have won and drew 2-2 with Teddington, whose sound defence kept East Grinstead in check until the 34th minute, when Bhatti scored.

A long hit by Way found Billson on his own inside the circle to equalise three minutes into the second half and inject new life into Teddington. The lead, that Collins had restored for East Grinstead in the 42nd minute, was cancelled out by McBride in the 59th with some help from Billson.

Reading followed their 2-0 defeat of Southgate on Saturday with a 5-0 away victory over Hounslow in the second match at Chiswick.

Old Loughtonians, Reading and Barford Tigers share the leadership of the premier division and Beeston are two points clear of Harlestone Magpies at the top of the first division.

The highlight of play on Saturday was the marksmanship of Jennings, who scored four goals for Guildford from short corners in a 5-2 victory over Canterbury.

Results, page 40

White to the rescue for Slough

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SLOUGH knew that they would have to pull out all the stops to preserve their position at the head of the women's premier division when they met Clifton, and it took a late equaliser by Kate White to ensure that they remain three points clear of the Bristol side.

The top-of-the-table clash failed to produce the quality or the result that Slough — champions four times — would have liked, but, in the opinion of their captain, Sue Chandler, a fortnight's break is just what they need to iron out a few faults.

Trailing to a seventh minute penalty corner goal by Lucy Culliford, Slough fought their way back to level terms when White found the target in the 53rd minute. With England training next weekend, Chandler believes the squad will benefit from the rest after two months of action.

At Hightown, Tina Cullen, the England striker and the league's all-time leading goal scorer, led the way for the champions with a hat-trick in her side's 4-3 win against Sutton Coldfield. The fourth was scored by Annalisa Bishop, a pupil at Greenbank High in Southport, who was making her debut for the club.

The Trojans' forward, Kath James, was also among the goals, hitting a second consecutive hat-trick as her team thrashed Leicester 5-0.

Vickey Dixon, the former England and Great Britain defender now playing in attack for Ipswich, netted two penalty corners in the 3-0 win against Doncaster to put them level on seven points with Clifton and Hightown.

In the first and second divisions, Olton and Old Loughtonians retained their unbeaten records. Olton defeating Canterbury 2-1 and Loughtonians beating St Albans 2-1.

SAILING: SHARK ALERT AND SHREDDED SAIL KEEP CREW ON THEIR TOES

Steering into the teeth of adversity

I had gone off watch totally exhausted at about 4pm and, with my walkman blasting out the Pogues, quickly fallen to sleep. It seemed only five minutes later but was about two hours when I was awoken by the shout for all hands on deck. I got there to find we were in the process of dropping the spinnaker.

A quick look around the crew revealed who had been sleeping, they were the ones like me with the expression of a frightened rabbit. A few pertinent questions established that a loud bang had been heard under the starboard side of the boat, followed by a loss of steerage and four knots of speed. It would appear that we had picked something up on the middle.

Paul, the skipper, (complete with rabbit look) was on the helm attempting to dislodge whatever by turning the wheel left to right. After five minutes and nothing working Billy, our engineer, volunteered to accompany Paul over the back to check it out.

As we were about to go and get their costumes on a huge splash from the stern grabbed our attention and we watched as a 15ft shark swam away. Billy managed a creak "Oh my" as the beast made its escape. It is ironic that the helmsman at the time, Dave

Kennedy, is a fully paid up member of Shark Watch.

Later on the same day another event occurred again while I was off duty. I was summoned on deck to see at first hand the effect of what is referred to in nautical terms as "banging the kite". When a kite is banged 3,500sq ft of perfectly serviceable sailcloth is turned into confetti and, as one of the two aboard with special responsibility for sail

repairs, I was left with the task of putting it back together. We are presently on day three — and still sewing.

Life aboard *Ocean Rover* has become a bit like police work with long periods of routine interrupted by short periods of hyperactivity. We have been at sea now for about 14 days and are presently storming down the coast of Africa towards the equator, having sailed about half of

ICE HOCKEY

Sheffield skate on untroubled

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

SHEFFIELD Steelers are through to the semi-final stage of the European Cup — a four-team group to be played in Finland in four weeks' time. Comprehensive wins over Hielo Jaca, of Spain, and Tilburg Trappers, the Dutch champions, in the quarter-final pool on their own ice, secured their passage even before they had met Steaua Bucharest in their final game last night.

While the Steelers could do no more than win, the opposition was of a disappointing standard and, as a result, the games lacked tension. Against the Spaniards, on Friday, the Steelers had five goals on the board in the first period.

Tilburg proved slightly tougher opposition on Saturday, restricting Sheffield to only one goal in the first period, but the final score was 5-1 and the abiding memory of the game was of a fussy referee giving too many penalties for niggling offences.

Doug Mason, the Tilburg coach, was critical of the official, suggesting that he had no feel for the game and was too busy spotting technical offences while missing such incidents as the one that led to one of his players suffering a broken thumb.

In the Superleague at Nottingham, Matt Folka, the referee, had a great deal to cope with on Saturday, giving a total of 145 minutes in penalties as Cardiff Devils beat the Panthers 7-3. All the goals came in the first period: most of the penalties in the third. The game took nearly 3½ hours to complete (the average length of a game is nearer to 2½ hours) and one player from each side was ejected midway through the final period.

Elsewhere, Ayr Scottish Eagles remained unbeaten — just — with a 3-2 overtime win against Basingstoke Bison and Newcastle Cobras beat Bracknell Bees 8-2.

BASKETBALL

Hemel still waiting for first win

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

WITHOUT a Budweiser League win or a coach, Hemel and Watford Royals know not which will arrive first — that is if either ever does.

They duly slumped to their eighth defeat on Saturday when Worthing Bears won much as they pleased, 109-95 in the Dacorum Centre. If the Royals cannot beat the team next to bottom, what hope is there? Plenty, according to the club's owner, Vince Macaulay-Razaq, who is content — for the time being — to hold the coaching reins after dismissing Mark Dunning last week.

Macaulay-Razaq, a frustrated coach if ever there was one, will not be rushing into quick appointments. He will evaluate the situation over the next three weeks.

"We want the team to settle down," he said. "Once it has done that, we will take a look at what the coaching options are and try to put something into place as well as we can. We also want to play some decent basketball and be competitive."

Many men in his position might have lost their players' respect, but there is a united front at Hemel.

"It's not as if he has been totally behind the scenes," Ray Schultz, the American coach, said. "He has been assistant coach for as long as I have been here. I always had a pretty good idea of what kind of coach he was."

Schultz has recently been joined by three new compatriots, among them the returning Allen Knochel, his side's top scorer with 25 points. Worthing's own new Americans, James Hamilton (29 points) and Anthony Thomas (25 points), made the decisive impact for their side.

Manchester Giants, who do not have another league fixture for five weeks, beat Derby Storm 96-73 with Mark Robinson scoring 23 points.

Crofts determined to try for third British title

David Powell on a champion athlete fighting back from serious illness

CLARE CROFTS was not in the race for victory in the Langdale Horseshoe fell run on Saturday but she was in the race, which was the extraordinary thing.

Life goes in twos for Crofts: two British fell running titles, two England team silver medals from the World Mountain Running Trophy. More recently, two serious illnesses.

Only six months after an operation to remove a tumour from her uterus, Crofts is back in the racing routine. This time, she hopes, to stay.

She has had one false start already: when the tumour was discovered, she had just begun a comeback from viral encephalomyelitis, an acute inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, resulting in chronic headaches, loss of feeling in the lower limbs, and variable heart rates.

On Saturday, Crofts raced 14 miles, including a 4,000ft climb over rough lakeland fells, but there was a time when she could not walk around the corner to her local shops.

After the illness struck in 1992, she was housebound for seven months. "I started to lose sensory and motor function in my feet, so I could not feel what I was touching."

Crofts, a Sheffield medical student, said:

"I could not move my legs properly. I had high blood pressure and a rapid heart rate that I could not control." The only stitch she could work up was not from running but with a needle. "My brother's wife was having a baby and, to rehabilitate, I tried to get my hands going by knitting baby clothes," Crofts said. "She had a full wardrobe by the time I had finished."

The illness left Crofts with hypertension and on drugs. She was advised that if she ever came off them, she would probably suffer an acute stroke.

"We knew exercise reduces hypertension and took a calculated risk," Tony Trowbridge, her coach, said. "She wanted to get back to running and decided the quality of life was important."

Crofts, who survives on a diet of fruit and water, and hardly anything else, ran in a few races but looked nothing like the athlete she had been. The second problem was lurking, she said. "I knew some-

thing was wrong but I thought it was the aftermath of the illness I had had. It was unconnected, pure chance. The tumour was the size of a fist. That is what the consultant told me."

A benign tumour, fortunately, and it was removed in April. Three months later she made her race comeback. Last month she won the Scafell Pike race but, in a tougher field on Saturday, finished sixth.

Crofts, 34, recorded 2hr 55min 40sec, 26 minutes slower than her best and 17 minutes behind the winner, Menna Anglharau, but it was progress.

"Now, instead of dragging myself round, I feel I am able to compete," Crofts said. "I am getting better but I need a winter of training without any problems. If I am going to get back to the top level I have to have that."

The Langdale race, one of the Lakeland classics, is, according to Geoff Clayton, the organiser, "the last thrash of the year at any distance."

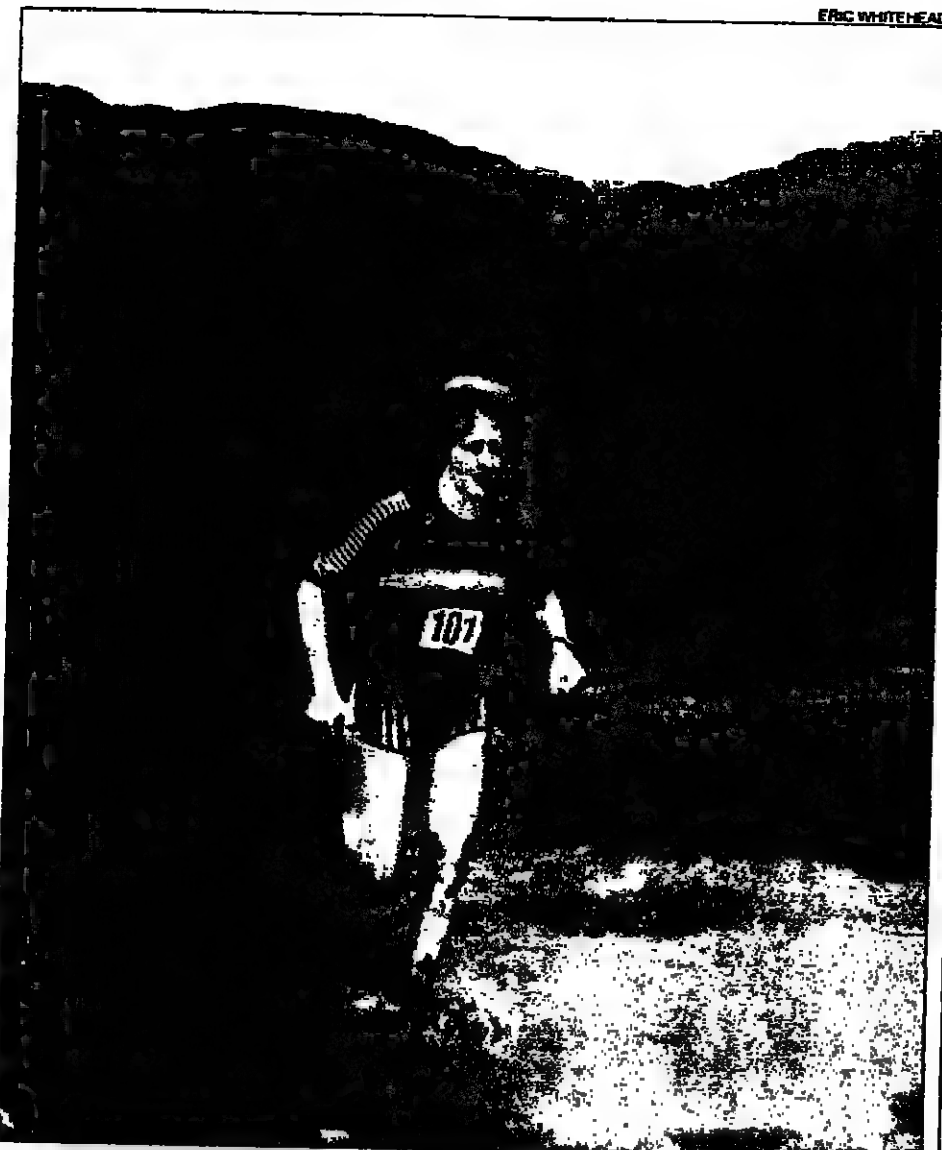
Only a small number of races remain so Crofts can get on with her training.

She does not dismiss the possibility of a third British title. "I would like to think I can win it again but I do not want to put too much pressure on myself," she said.

Any future successes would owe a great debt of gratitude to Trowbridge. "I think if it had not been for him I would have packed it in," Crofts said. "He is the only person who believed I could get back to the level I was running at a few years ago."

Crofts was not as far behind her best as her time on Saturday suggests. It was a grey, rainy, miserable morning. The runners were slowed down by poor visibility that prevents them identifying the shortest racing line. Ian Holmes, the British champion, won despite getting lost, recording 2hr 09min 09sec. "We ran 60 per cent of the race in the fog," Holmes said.

Holmes lost time on the course and Anglharau conceded time at the start. She was in the toilet when the race began. "I had taken my watch off and did not know what the time was," she said. It was her good fortune that Crofts, for now at least, is not the formidable fell runner she used to be.



Crofts finishes sixth in the Langdale Horseshoe fell run on Saturday

BOXING

Reid earns reward for switch

ROBIN REID, the unbeaten Runcorn boxer, continued his inexorable rise when he defeated Vincenzo Nardiello in Milan to claim the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title.

Reid, 25, stopped the former policeman seconds from the end of the seventh round on Saturday night, and is now in line for a lucrative bout against Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation champion, or Nigel Benn.

Marvin Hagler, once the undisputed world middleweight champion, who now lives in Italy, saw Reid's triumph. "Hagler told me that I looked like a champion from the start and boxed well," Reid said. "He said he could see I was hungry, and if I keep that hunger I would keep hold of the title. Some people said I didn't deserve the chance because I hadn't fought for a British or European title. My promoter, Frank Warren, had confidence in me to win a world title in Italy, in Nardiello's back yard."

Nardiello, who sustained two cracked bones in his left hand, went down three times before Reid switched to southpaw in the seventh round to end the bout.

Football grapples with problems of pay-per-view

An American friend once told me of a horror visit to Stamford Bridge with her Chelsea-supporting boyfriend. At half-time, she wanted to go to the toilet, but could not find the ladies. In desperation, she ventured towards the gents, only to retreat swiftly.

Those days are almost gone. Stadiums have become all-seated, with rapidly improving amenities, reasonable food and, increasingly, sell-out audiences capitalising on football's renewed popularity. But there is a great threat looming — live, pay-per-view television coverage of matches.

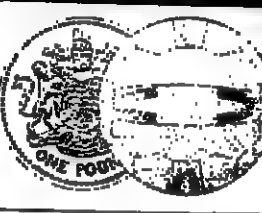
The idea of pay-per-view is simple. Because of digital television technology, hundreds of channels will soon be available via satellite and cable services. A broadcaster could, for example, turn over 20 channels to football, showing all the Saturday matches in the FA Carling Premiership live, plus some from the Nationwide League. These can be encrypted and a decoder given to viewers who will be able to activate it with a smart card — a plastic card implanted with a silicon chip.

A service like this is already up and running in France, run by Canal Plus. In Italy, there are tests of a pay-per-view service and, in Germany, there has been a full dummy run, showing both the German Grand Prix and Bundesliga games. The innovation in Germany is for one game to be shown on four channels simultaneously, with different camera angles and commentaries on different channels.

In the United Kingdom, pay-per-view could be with us as soon as the beginning of the 1999 football season. As part of the new television deal struck between the Premiership and BSkyB, which is partly owned by News International, the publishers of *The Times*, football clubs can start a pay-per-view service with anyone they like in the 1999-2000 season. BSkyB is already gearing up for this and will soon announce a contract, probably with Pace Micro Technology, for digital boxes that can receive its planned 200 channel service.

Yet how will this work in

THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



practice and how much will it cost? Football clubs are concerned that pay-per-view will hit attendances, as supporters stay home in the warm and watch live television rather than venture miles to the ground, so they are keen for some sort of package that encourages people to also attend games.

The most likely solution is the Italian idea of an electronic season ticket. If, for example, you were an Arsenal fan, you would buy a smart card that would give you a number of credits that could be exchanged for either admission to Highbury or the chance to watch Arsenal's game live on television.

A year ago, the Premiership surveyed 4,000 football fans to see whether they would watch pay-per-view and how much they would pay. The response, even at £10 a match, was strong enough to indicate that the total income from pay-per-view could be as high as £2.5 billion a year.

Even at £5 a time, which is the price many expect pay-per-view games to start at, the income is astonishing. This weekend Manchester United play Liverpool, a game that last year commanded an audience of five million on Sky Sports. If all of those viewers paid £5, the income from the game would be £25 million. The income from a capacity Old Trafford is a mere £1.4 million a game.

The massive earning potential of pay-per-view means that the clubs will push to bring it in as soon as possible. It will also widen the gulf between the big clubs, which will be able to reap the rewards of a large supporter base, and their poorer brethren.

JASON NISSE

BASEBALL

Strawberry picks his moment for Yankees

THE New York Yankees, the most famous of all baseball teams, yesterday stood on the threshold of their first World Series for 15 years after defeating the Baltimore Orioles 8-4 to take a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven American League championship series (Keith Blackmore writes).

One more win last night, at the Orioles' home park, Camden Yards, where the Yankees have won all eight previous meetings of the teams this season, would settle the matter and send New York into a frenzy of anticipation.

Their first championship since 1981 was all but deliv-

ered by a man best known for his exploits with the New York Mets. Darryl Strawberry, who was reclaimed by the Yankees earlier this season after a succession of personal and tax problems had driven him into the minor leagues, struck two home runs as New York swept aside the Orioles.

In the National League championship series, the World Series champions, the Atlanta Braves, surprisingly lost for the second time in succession to the St Louis Cardinals, falling 2-1 behind overall. Ron Gant struck two home runs as the Cardinals won 3-2 in St Louis.

RUGBY UNION: HEINEKEN CUP AT LAST THROWS UP CROSS-BORDER SKIRMISH TO SAVOUR

Davies drops hint of Cardiff's ability

Wasps 24
Cardiff 26

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

JUST when an act of the grandest farce hovered in the sunny air above Loftus Road yesterday, Jonathan Davies showed that, though his 33-year-old legs are not as swift as they were, he can still prove a match-winner. His second dropped goal, skimming over from 30 metres, snatched the most deserved of victories for Cardiff in this Heineken Cup pool D encounter.

Less than a year ago, Cardiff graced the final of the inaugural European competition and lost to Toulouse. Less than a month ago, Europe was far from their thoughts as they struggled desperately to win a match in the Welsh League. Now, their horizons are broadening.

Here, at last, was a genuine Anglo-Welsh contest, even though it was set on the European stage, and Cardiff, with a thoroughly old-fashioned display, demonstrated that, if the basic elements of defence and set-piece solidarity are in place, the fluid style of Wasps lacks the precision required to be successful.

It may be argued that Wasps would have won if they had taken any one of the three glaring opportunities that they created in the second half, but the fact remains that their own lack of judgment prevented them, as well as the desperate Cardiff defence. Once, Andy Gomarsall kicked when he had two supporters in space outside him; once, Nick Greenstock did the same; and, criminally, Damian Cronin chose to go himself and was crushed by Hemi Taylor.

Against that, Davies's inaccurate boot left 13 points on the table. "I practised this morning and kicked them all," he said. "We had here two well-matched sides and we knew going into the game we could score tries from anywhere. If we defend and keep



Sheasby, the Wasps flanker, is hauled back as he tries to breach the Cardiff defence at Loftus Road yesterday. Photograph: Des Jensen

our discipline, we will be difficult to beat.

"Welsh clubs haven't got the strength in depth of some English sides, nor the financial strength, but when we put our best XV on the field, we are very competitive."

That needs no reiteration. Wasps could not compete with the powerful Cardiff lineout and, worse, they contrived a gift for Cardiff by allowing Emyr Lewis to plunge on an uncontested ball at the back of an early lineout, ride a tackle near the line then register the ball to score the first try.

Yet, with Gareth Rees as efficient in his place-kicking as

Davies was not. Wasps could not be written off. Nine times he aimed for the posts and eight times he succeeded as Cardiff defended again and again at ruck and maul, continuously offside in the judgment of Brian Stirling and compounding their errors by making observations to the referee.

This allowed Rees to nibble back the ten-point lead that Cardiff established within seven minutes. Wasps shifted the emphasis from back row to midfield, switching Greenstock and Va'anga Tuigamala from inside to outside centre, and the New Zealander

rewarded them richly. However, at the interval, Tuigamala received attention to a shoulder injury and was then virtually anonymous, which suggests that he should have been replaced.

At that stage, Wasps led 15-13 and must have felt that they could impose themselves, but Cardiff lack nothing in experience and they had Robert Howley playing his most impressive game of the season at scrum half. His first try was sheer delight. Lewis breaking blind from a scrum and Howley revelling in the space as he used Simon Hill as a foil.

That try levelled matters at 18-18, and his second was a complete contrast. He earned the position with a scintillating break from deep in his own half, his forwards rumbled forward from the lineout and, finally, Howley lunged for the line and took the scoring chance that Wasps so patiently could not.

"This is little short of international level and our lads have to realise that, when you get opportunities, you have to take them," Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said with a shake of the head.

Rees's seventh penalty goal reduced the lead to two points and, with only a minute left, his eighth gave Wasps a lead that they scarcely deserved. Yet, straight from the kick-off, Cardiff responded. Their forwards, outstanding as a unit, won back the ball and Davies lay off at the posts.

SCORERS: Wasps: Penalty goals: Rees (8). Cardiff: Tries: Howley (2). Lewis. Conversion: Davies. Penalty goals: Davies (2). Wasps: J. Upton, P. Sampson, N. Greenstock, V. Tuigamala, L. Scrase, G. Rees, A. Gomarsall, M. Griffiths, S. Michael, W. Green, M. White, D. Cronin, M. Greenstock, L. Delgado, C. Sheasby, M. Preece (temporary replacement for Upton (22-32mins); J. Worsley (temporary replacement for White (31-40)).

CARDIFF: J. Thomas, S. Hill, M. Hill, G. Jones, W. Walter, J. Davies, R. Howley, L. Melville, J. Humphreys, D. Young, H. Taylor, J. Wakford, D. Jones, J. Ringer, E. Lewis. Rees replaced by M. Bennett (62). Referee: S. Stirling (Ireland).

Interpretation of law threatens to disrupt order

Llanelli 34
Leinster 17

By GERALD DAVIES

GARETH JENKINS, the Llanelli coach, is a forthright man. He does not mince his words. After this Heineken Cup match on Saturday, he was very critical of the Scottish referee. Well, perhaps not Mr. Baciagallo, but rather the instructions that referees have been given in Scotland about the law governing what is allowed to happen after a tackle is made.

The law states that the next man to play the ball after the tackle must be on his feet. This is not quite how they see it in Scotland, apparently; they would appear to be out of tune. In Scotland, it seems that, after the tackle, the next player can also go to the ground. This was the way that it was put to Jenkins before the match on Saturday, but it is not the way it is played in Wales... or in Ireland. The Scottish interpretation is contrary to the law.

Thus, on Saturday, the Welsh and Irish clubs had grown accustomed to one interpretation of the law while the referees interpreted things differently or had been advised so to do.

The plot will thicken on Wednesday when Llanelli travel to Hawick to play the Scottish Borders. Each will have a different view of the law. The match will be controlled by an Englishman, which might present an intriguing spectacle. Someone, clearly, is going to be out of step.

Over the weekend, it was this particular area that provided, in Jenkins's words, "the slow-ball game". There were moments when the action moved swiftly, but, by and large, the teams tended to cancel each other out around the fringes.

"If the forwards are allowed to pile up on each other," Jenkins said, "then you are

unlikely to get the fast ball you need to continue to attack. In addition, the threequarters are given time to organise their defence."

There was a good deal of this on Saturday. Wyatt proved to be the most effective player in this area for Llanelli while Rolland orchestrated matters quite effectively for Leinster, particularly in the first half, which turned out to be their most productive period. They scored all their points then.

Llanelli will be thankful that, at last, they have a dominant figure — Franco Botica — at stand-off half. They have been looking for one for two years. Botica scored 19 points for his club and, when their four international players return, his presence could well turn Llanelli into a more distinctive force than they have been hitherto.

Although Botica kicked three penalty goals and converted McBryde's try, Leinster led at half-time after tries by Gavin, McKenna and O'Mahony and a conversion by Gormley.

The Leinster pack held the edge in the first half, but they hardly made an impression afterwards. They were pinned back in their own part of the field, which eventually allowed Moon and Boobyer the opportunities to score tries. Botica, with a success rate of seven out of nine attempts, converted one of these and kicked two more penalty goals.

SCORERS: Llanelli: Tries: McBryde, Moon, Boobyer. Conversion: Botica (2). Penalty goals: Botica (5). Leinster: Tries: Gavin, McKenna, O'Mahony. Conversion: Gormley. Llanelli: G. Evans, A. Richards, M. White, N. Boobyer, D. Evans, F. Sobu, R. Moon, R. Jones, R. McBryde, S. John, J. Jones, V. Cooper, S. Ford, H. Jenkins, C. Wyal, J. Jenkins (replaced by P. Morris (71-75)). LEINSTER: P. Morris (Old Belvedere), P. Gavin (Old Belvedere), R. McBryde (St. Mary's College), K. Moyle (Old Belvedere), D. O'Mahony (Lansdowne), R. Gormley (Lansdowne), A. Rolland (Blackrock College), H. Hurley (Blackrock College), S. Roney (Lansdowne), M. Preece (Old Belvedere), M. O'Leary (Lansdowne), D. O'Leary (Westbury), V. Costello (London Irish), N. Hogan (Oxford University) (temporary replacement for Rolland (18-19)). Referee: J. Bannister (Scotland).

Pienaar's omission comes under fire

By DAVID HANDS

THE omission of Francois Pienaar from the South Africa squad to tour Argentina, France and Wales during the next eight weeks has caused a public outcry at home, never mind abroad, where he has established a powerful reputation. Criticism has been heaped on Andre Markgraaf, the coach who rejected the charismatic Pienaar, and the manner in which the announcement was made on television on Saturday.

Pienaar, 29, was invited to captain his country in his first

international, three years ago, and the climax to his career came when he led South Africa to victory in the 1995 World Cup. Although he missed the series against New Zealand after suffering a neck injury on August 10, he returned to action with Transvaal three weeks ago and his fitness was in no doubt.

Markgraaf, though, who said that Pienaar formed no part of his vision for South Africa's future, has replaced him with Theo Oosthuizen, 32, a journeyman flanker from Griqualand West who moved provinces because he could

not secure a regular place in the Free State's senior side. Indeed, Oosthuizen is one of eight Griquas to be named either in the tour squad or for the Junior Springboks squad that will visit Europe, the coincidence being that Markgraaf is president of the Griqualand West union.

"I'm utterly astonished," Kitch Christie, who coached South Africa to the World Cup, said. "I think Pienaar being dropped is absurd. South African rugby will be the loser."

Pienaar's image may have been tarnished last summer

by revelations that he had acted as an agent for the stillborn World Rugby Championship organisation, but he remained in place until his injury this year.

"I'm terribly disappointed," he said. "It's a pity I'm out, but it's what I do with my life from here on that will make me a better person."

SOUTH AFRICA SQUAD: Backs: A. Joubert, R. Berris, J. Smith, J. Oliver, S. Pienaar, P. Hendricks, A. Springer, J. Mulder, C. Scholtz, H. Le Roux, D. van der Walt, P. Wessels, H. Mouton, D. Smith, J. van der Westhuizen, K. Puit, J. Viljoen, F. van der Westhuizen, A. van der Linde, O. du Rand, M. Huddle, D. Theobald, J. Dutton, H. Tromp, C. Rossouw, M. Andrews, R. Strydom, J. Wiese, P. Otto, F. van Heerden, R. Krieger, W. Fries, J. Oosthuizen, A. Venter, G. Techmann, S. Bekker.

Richmond hit right scoring notes

Richmond 54
London Scottish 13

By ALISON KERVIN

RICHMOND and London Scottish share the same ground, the same training pitches and the same facilities — but not the same financial resources, and very different tastes in music.

In the event it was those two factors that contributed most to the afternoon on Saturday as Richmond outclassed London Scottish in a lacklustre, error-strewn Courage Clubs Championship second division performance of which neither side will be particularly proud.

The four defiant Scottish pipers who were drowned out by brass, intrusive music after every Richmond score, seemed strangely symbolic of the match itself — you could sometimes hear the strain of bagpipes beneath the loud music, but not for long. Richmond beat London

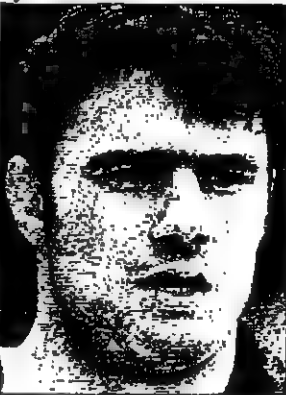
Scottish because they were more competent, more experienced, faster and fitter. But it was miles off the standard of first division rugby to which both sides aspire. Richmond lack cohesion and, more worrying, was the form of Ben Clarke. After the endless debates about whether he could keep his international form while playing regularly in the second division, he was particularly disappointing on Saturday, making no real impact.

It was Richmond's rugby league imports that shone most brightly. Allan Bateman in the centre, was the star of the show. He looked extremely talented, and in a more cohesive team, his talent could be unlocked and used to more dramatic effect. Fallon is also an outstanding player, although his unforced error denied Richmond a try-scoring opportunity in the second half.

Craig Quinnell looked impressive as the Wales selectors, Terry Coburn and Geoff Evans, watched. Also in the

5,000-strong crowd was Richie Dixon, the Scotland coach. He would have found little on show to prompt him to scribble in his little black book. Dave Millard was the mainstay of the Scottish effort, while Steele, Scottish's creative stand-off half, was off-form and unable to offer space, time and direction to his centres.

Richmond went into an early lead with a converted try by Bateman in the first



Clarke: no impact

minute, followed by three Mason penalties and Fallon's first try. Millard replied for Scottish but, immediately after the break, Scott Quinnell went over, followed by Mason. Then Bateman notched up his second. Richmond's superior fitness told in the last quarter, allowing in Davies and Fallon.

The next few years will tell whether Richmond can hold their growing set-up together as a professional era takes shape, or whether the early change will blow away the papyrus veneer and leave them back where they started.

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Bateman (2), Fallon (2), S. Quinnell, Mason, Davies. Conversion: Mason (3). Penalty goals: Mason (3). London Scottish: Tries: Millard. Conversion: Steele. Penalty goals: Steele (2). RICHMOND: S. Mason, J. Fallon, A. Bateman, S. Quinnell, M. Hutton, A. Davies, A. Moore, D. McFarland, B. Moore, D. Crombie, B. Clarke, C. Quinnell, P. West, A. Venter, S. Quinnell, C. Quinnell (replaced by J. Jones (76min)).

LONDON SCOTTISH: N. Robinson, T. Watson, E. Rayner, A. Furnley, A. Turner, J. Steele, D. Millard, J. Baird, J. McFarland, P. Quinnell, M. Duffie, S. Quinnell, A. Jackson, S. Holmes, C. Tabbuck, J. Harrison (temporary replacement for Robinson (39-40min)). Referee: J. Watts (Somerset).

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SWIMMING

Masters competitors holding back the years

By JOHN GOODBODY

ONE of the most commendable ideas in British sport celebrated its Silver Jubilee in London on Saturday, when the Otter Swimming Club staged its 25th annual Masters gala.

Men and women, aged from 25 to over 80, took part in an activity that has excited not only British but international swimming. At the World Masters championship in Sheffield last June more than 4,000 swimmers entered the event. Several of them were former Olympic medal-winners but others were just club members, keen to stem the advancing years through competitive racing.

It was an American professor of psychiatry, Ranson J. Arthur, a member of Otter, who began the move in the 1960s to encourage competitive swimming for veterans.

The United States ran their first national championships in 1970 and Otter ran a pilot scheme in Britain two years later. This led to the Amateur Swimming Association introducing its own championships in 1982, and then European and finally world championships followed.

The oldest competitor on

Saturday was John Harrison, aged 82 from Godalming, who first took part in the Otter event in 1973. It was the first competitive event of his life, although he had taught swimming, sub aqua and lifesaving. He is the British record-holder for the 100 metres freestyle in his 80-84 years age-group with 1min 55sec.

"You can push yourself in swimming, even at my age; it's the greatest muscle motivator there is," he said. "I hope I will be swimming competitively until I die."

He trains three times a week and entered four events on Saturday, winning them all. Roger Sharpley, the president of Otter, said: "Masters tournaments have given older swimmers purpose; they have goals to aim at, rather than just doing lengths of the pool. It is swimming's answer to the London Marathon."

"It is also an activity in which you can exercise to the maximum while causing the least possible strain to yourself. Swimming is non-weight bearing so there is no jarring on the joints and the slight resistance from the water strengthens all the limbs."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Dynamo on glory trail as Hare heads home

Shephed Dynamo 1
Knipersley Victoria 0

By WALTER GAMMIE

KNIPERSLEY Victoria earned themselves a special place in the affections of Shephed Dynamo when they gave them the perfect send-off to life in the Midland Interlink Express Alliance at the Dovecot last May, obligingly losing 3-1 as Shephed celebrated the presentation of the championship shield and then, allegedly, drank the bar dry.

They did relations no harm at all when they returned to the now-Dr Marrens League club and left the home side bubbling with anticipation at the FA Cup fourth qualifying round draw today after a 1-0 victory.

The vision of a place in the first round meant, however, that the match on Saturday was no festival. It was played with fierce intensity. Shephed's anxiety about coping without Dave King, who has scored 16 goals this season but was missing with a twisted knee, was eased by a headed goal by Hare from O'Kane's cross in the thirteenth minute.

Their worries might have been banished altogether if

Bancroft had not had a penalty pawed away by Funnery just before half-time. Instead, they had to weather Knipersley's intermittent charges down the slope in the second half. When Shallcross's shot hit the foot of the post in the final minute, it marked an anticlimactic end to a first, gallant Cup run.

The Dynamo side to whom Knipersley hand the baron are worthy of the honour. After the peaks and troughs of its predecessor, variously Shephed Albion and Charterhouse, the two-year-old club has exceeded its hopes under the stewardship of Paul Mitchell, the chairman, and Mark O'Kane, the manager.

The pair are desperate to field Ibrahim Bah, a Sierra Leone international, whose girlfriend is studying at nearby Loughborough University, but his clearance to play is lost in red tape. Shephed believe he would double crowds — they attracted a season's best 382 on Saturday.

SHEPHERD DYNAMO (4-4-2): R. Selby, A. Dourty, M. Rowe, A. Aldred, P. Bancroft, P. O'Kane (sub: P. Sanding (80min)), M. Corbett, J. Chamberlain, S. Hare, C. Funnery (sub: N. Kennedale (65-80)).

KNIPERSLEY VICTORIA (3-5-2): R. Pinner, S. Ellis, C. Woodhouse, T. Sarnham, sub: D. Wilson (40-), A. Boyd (sub: P. Hare, 47-), P. Price, B. Hall, D. Shallcross, M. Tymms, P. James, M. Bridge (sub: C. Cade (81)). Referee: M. Warran.

Sally Jones and family try a sport which can be 'like doing *The Times* crossword while running for a train'

'Cunning running' proves to be a thrilling day out

I had always tended, unfairly maybe, to imagine the typical orienteer as a bearded, Volvo-driving doctor, sprinting through gorse bushes, goggling at his map and compass through pebble glasses. The sport is certainly saddled with a faintly nerdy image; the result of its devotees' habit of plastering the back windows of their cars with slogans like "Orienteering: Cunning Running"; and of encasing their bony frames in gaudy, skin-tight lycra ensembles that would make even Linford Christie blush.

It came as quite a surprise, therefore, to find that orienteering is a fast-growing sport for all ages and attracts children from four upwards, while some teenagers have already acquired the sophisticated map-reading skills and sheer stamina necessary to compete on equal terms with top adult competitors.

I agreed, somewhat reluctantly, to take the family (four-year-old Madeline, Roly, five, and a distinctly sceptical husband, John) for their first taste of the sport at a novice event in the grounds of Coombe Abbey, an historic house at Brinklow, near Coventry.

First impressions, though, were favourable: at the registration point in the car park (hardly a Volvo in sight), we were welcomed by two jolly, down-to-earth organisers, Miranda Aston, resplendent in studded shoes and top-toe lycra and Peter Guillaume, a policeman who helps to run the local club, picturesquely known as the Octavian Droobers.

"At the elite level it's a bit like doing *The Times* crossword while you run for a train," Aston explained. "But the children start off doing a non-competitive string course. We get the idea of finding a series of control points and gradually work up through a whole range of different level courses to proper map reading and full-scale competitive events — highly competitive in some cases!"

Guillaume meanwhile explained to Roly and Madeline how the string course worked. After giving their names at the start to a capable-looking woman at a picnic table laden with boxes of sweets, each received a control card bearing a series of pictures: a bunch of balloons, a whale, a yacht, etc. These, they learned, corresponded to the pictures on the control points dotted along a half-kilometre course through woodland, scrub and undergrowth, which was marked by a continuous string which they had to follow. At each control point, they were to clip the

matching picture on their control card with the clip punch fastened there. As with full-scale orienteering, each punch produced a different configuration of dots, to prevent any cheating by those tempted to take a crafty shortcut.

After a couple of near-misses, they succeeded in punching the first symbol on their cards, the balloons, and then darted off along the string, in search of the next control point, marked with a whale. By the time they had negotiated half-a-dozen of the ten stages, they were full of confidence; Madeline religiously following the twisting string, Roly taking shortcuts

between controls to get there first. We kept them in sight at a distance and listened to their delighted squeals as they punched the final symbol, had their cards checked and received a large, chewy sweet as a reward for a "full house".

We then signed on as a family for the next stage, the 1.5-kilometre white course. This is the most elementary level of the various courses devised by the British Orienteering Federation and does not require a compass, but we were advised to bring a whistle in case we got lost and a red biro to mark our particular course and the exact location of the control points on the map we had been given at registration.

This large-scale (1:7,500) map showed Coombe Park in detail, marking even the smallest natural features in different colours. For example, rough open land is yellow; seasonal marsh is blue dashes; forest is different shades of green depending on whether you could run through it slowly (pale green) or would have to fight your way through (dark green).

Equally vital were the control card, with its 12 numbered boxes to be clipped, and the set of control descriptions, eg, Control Point 1, numbered 130, bend in the path; Control Point 2, numbered 134, causeway over stream.



Magnetic Roly, five, gets to grips with the compass on the youth orienteering course at Coombe Park, Coventry

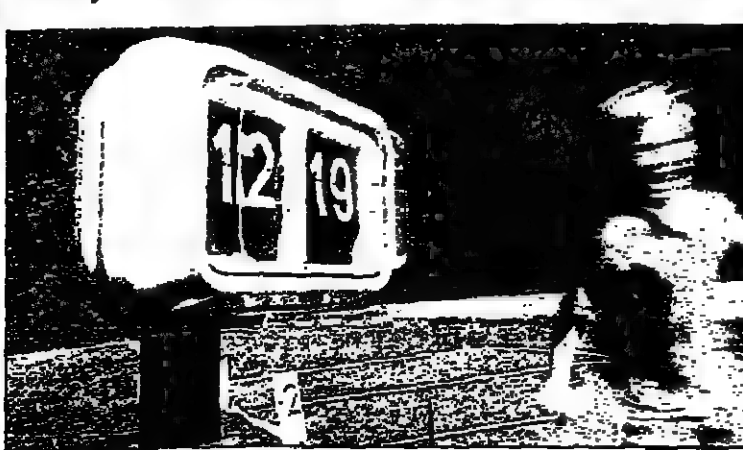
We were given a start time and carefully copied the white course from the master plan onto our own shape, explaining the general principle of the exercise to the children, who waited for the countdown then set off down the leafy track and discovered the first control point, a white post marked with a pink and white square bearing the correct number, 130. Radiating superiority, Madeline deftly clipped the box on the control card numbered 1 and trotted off to the next control, a bridge over a narrow stream. Here, two controls a few yards apart caused initial confusion until we matched the number on our control description (134) with the correct point and duly clipped box number 2 on the control card.

All went well for the first kilometre until, in a grassy glade surrounded by dense woodland, we began hunting

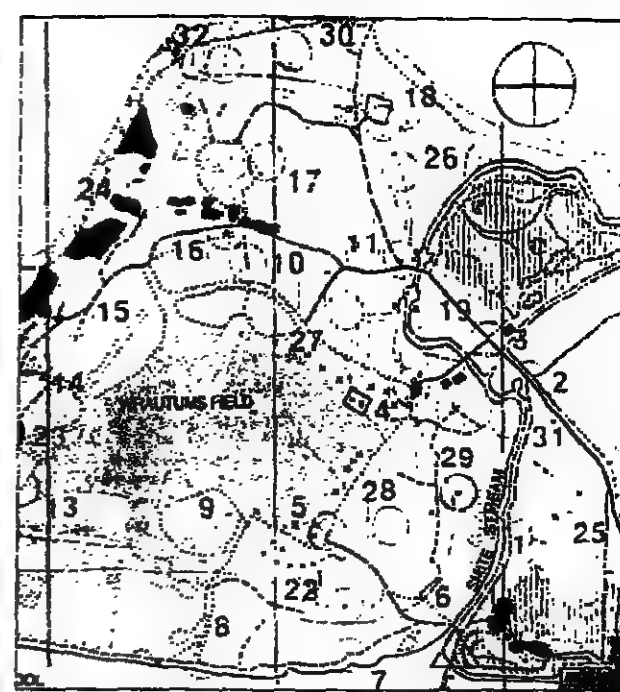
for the seventh control point and I discovered I had dropped the sheet of control descriptions somewhere en route. Catastrophe! We had no way of telling which of the two nearby control points was the correct one for the white course.

Amid bitter recriminations from the children, Peter Guillaume suddenly appeared out of the undergrowth and broke off from his own course to put us right. We retraced our footsteps to find an earlier control point we'd missed, then finished at a center, handing in our card well outside any time that might have put us among the prize-winners but thrilled to have completed our first orienteering event. As Roly remarked pointedly: "The man says there's one at Cannock Chase next week so I want to try that one — but this time I'm not doing it with Mummy."

Stately: the course is set in the grounds of historic Coombe Abbey



Time out: every minute counts in the race to get to the finish line first



On the right track? Course maps are colour-coded

A course for all levels of ability

THE sport of orienteering developed in Sweden in the 1930s as an extension of military map-reading exercises. It slowly spread to Britain in the mid-sixties but it was not until 1976 that it really took off here, after Britain hosted the world championships for the first time in Scotland.

Around 10,000 adults plus tens of thousands of schoolchildren now take part at a variety of levels, starting with simple string courses for children up to the age of seven. From there, youngsters graduate to colour-coded events, starting with white and yellow courses (suitable for novices, families and unaccompanied youngsters of eight upwards); through orange and light green (fairly difficult and around 3.5km); to blue and brown (hard and around 7km plus). The top competitors take part in national and international championships while age group events include categories for orienteers from 8-80.

Whatever their levels, all orienteers negotiate unknown territory in search of a series of numbered control points marked on the map they carry. They must then clip the appropriate numbered box on their control card to prove that they have reached the correct controls in the right order.

In competitive events, the orienteer who completes the course in the fastest time is the winner and most senior internationalists are also good cross-country runners. At club level, though, the majority of participants simply trot round the course, regarding the map-reading aspect of the sport as a problem-solving dimension which adds interest to a jog or brisk walk in spectacular countryside.

More and more schools are incorporating orienteering into the syllabus as part of the National Curriculum for PE, geography and maths, and there is a thriving network of children's competitions.

YOU WILL NEED

STOUT shoes, trainers or studded running shoes, tracksuit or sensible walking clothes, including leg cover (bambles are a regular hazard). Most events also advise you to take a red biro to mark your course on the map, a clear polythene bag as a map case, a protractor-type compass for more advanced events, and a whistle in case you get lost. For most events, there is no need to enter in advance, so you can simply turn up on the day and start "cunning running".

For further details, contact the British Orienteering Federation, Riversdale, Dale Road North, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 2HX. Tel: 01629 734042.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
A complete count on the hand enabled South to negotiate an impossible-looking diamond position on today's hand. It was played in the recent Junior European Championship.

Dealer West	East-West val	IMPs									
	♠AK52 ♥K1032 ♦J62 ♣94										
♠Q1098 ♥QJ8 ♦A953 ♣108	<table><tr><td>N</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td>W</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr></table>	N		E	W				S		♠J76 ♥8 ♦Q1087 ♣AKQ72
N		E									
W											
	S										
	♠43 ♥A9764 ♦K4 ♣J653										
W	N	E	S								
Pass	Pass	1C	1H								

Contract: Three Hearts by South. Lead: ten of clubs
West's double was negative, the standard method in duplicate nowadays. Here it showed sound responding values and exactly four spades. Holding an old-fashioned penalty double of One Heart, West passes expectantly: East will reopen, usually with a double, on any hand with heart shortage, even without extra strength. Three Clubs showed a value raise to Three Hearts.

East took two top clubs and switched to a spade to the ten and king. Declarer cashed the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, and ruffed a club in dummy as West discarded a diamond. Then he took two rounds of trumps and ruffed his last club on the table.

West was known to have two clubs and three hearts on the play so far, and four

spades (hence four diamonds) on the bidding. If East had the ace of diamonds, it was time to lead towards the king. Instead, inferring from East's silence over Three Clubs that West was more likely to hold the missing ace, South ruffed the last spade, and put West on play with his master trump. Left with only diamonds, as declarer knew to be the case, West had to give up the ninth trick to South's king.

(Incidentally, did you see that the new *Chambers Dictionary* extraordinarily says "infer" and "imply" can sometimes be used interchangeably? They imply that only pedants would object.)

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard
AUTOFRETTAGE
a. Dealing in damaged cars
b. Self stimulation
c. Gun barrel manufacture
NEF
a. A nautical table ornament
b. Small lace handkerchief
c. A fault in real tennis

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Today I continue my tribute to Julius Silverman, the former Labour MP, who died on September 21. Silverman was considered the strongest player in the House of Commons during the continuous period of 36 years in which he was an MP.

On September 17, four days before his death, he visited the Birmingham Chess Club and played three games, winning one and losing two, against a player graded 135 on the British Chess Federation scale. Silverman's best period, though, was before the war, when he performed excellently, for example, in the Birmingham International competition of 1937. In the following game he totally overwhelms a noted author and player of master strength.

White: Eugene Znosko-Borovsky
Black: Julius Silverman
Birmingham 1937

Ray Lopez	
1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nf6
3 Bb5	g6
4 Bg5	Nf6
5 O-O	g5
6 Bb3	Nf6
7 d4	d5
8 dxe5	Be6
9 c3	Be7
10 Be1	O-O
11 Re1	Nf5
12 Bc2	Ne4
13 Bc1	Bc5
14 Rf1	h5
15 Nf4	Qe7
16 Bxe4	dxe4
17 e6	Qd6
18 b3	Ne5
19 Nxe6	Bd2+
20 Kh1	Kxg6

After 27 Qd3 or 27 gxf3, 27 ... Rxf2 is checkmate.

This game shows the degree of sophistication which Silverman reached in his knowledge of chess. The opening variation followed established theory until move 9 and it was White's tenth move which deviated from accepted practice. White's premature development of his queen's bishop allowed Black to bound this piece and gain an initiative which he prosecuted with vigour up to the checkmate.

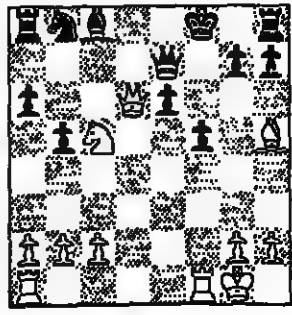
Times book

The *Times* Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Bostford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Dubinjetski — Danowski, Switzerland 1984. Black has only succeeded in developing his king and queen in this game so it is not surprising that White now has a quick win. What did he play?



Solution on page 49



Check: Roly and Madeline clip their cards

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Right of individual reparation for failure to implement directive

Dillenker and Others v Federal Republic of Germany

Joined Cases C-178 and C-179/94 and C-188 to C-190/94

Before G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, President and Judges G. F. Mancini, J. C. Molitor de Almeida, J. L. Murray, J. Sévon, C. N. Kakkouris, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, D. A. O. Edwards, J. P. Pissachet, G. Hirsch, P. Jann and H. Ragnemalm

Advocate General G. Tesauro (Opinion November 28, 1995) [Judgment October 8]

A failure by a member state to implement a Community directive may give rise to a right to reparation on the part of individuals, if those individuals had identifiable rights under the directive and there was a direct link between the state's breach and injury suffered. No other conditions had to be satisfied.

Package travellers had, under a directive on package holidays and tours, identifiable rights of refund and reparation in the event of an organiser's insolvency.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, inter alia, on references to article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Landgericht (Regional Court), Bonn, for a preliminary ruling in five joined cases.

Article 9 of Council Directive 90/314/EEC of June 13, 1990 on package travel, package holidays and package tours (OJ 1990 L158 p59) required member states to bring into force the measures necessary to comply with the directive before December 31, 1992.

but a law implementing the directive in Germany only came into force in July 1994.

After the insolvency in 1993 of two package tour operators, the plaintiffs, purchasers of packages, either never left for their destination or had to return from their holiday location at their own expense.

The plaintiffs, having been unable to obtain compensation from other sources, brought actions for compensation against the German Federal Republic on the ground that, if article 7 of Directive 90/314 had been transposed into German law within the prescribed period, they would have been protected against the operators' insolvency.

Article 7 provides: "The organiser and/or retailer party to the contract shall provide sufficient evidence of security for the refund of money paid over and for the reparation of the consumer in the event of insolvency."

The third paragraph of article 189 of the EC Treaty provides: "A directive shall be binding, as to the result to be achieved, upon each member state to which it is addressed, but shall leave to the national authorities the choice of form and methods."

In its judgment the Court of Justice held that:

The first question to be answered concerned the conditions under which a state incurred liability towards individuals where a directive had not been transposed within the prescribed period.

The crux of that question was whether such a failure was sufficient per se to afford individuals who had suffered injury a right to reparation, or whether other con-

ditions had also to be taken into account. More specifically, the national court raised the question of the importance to be attached to the German Government's contention that the period prescribed for the transposition of Directive 90/314 was inadequate.

It also asked, inter alia, whether state liability required a manifest and grave breach of Community obligations, whether the breach had to be established in infringement proceedings before the loss or damage occurred, and whether liability presupposed the existence of fault, of either commission or omission, in the adoption of legislative measures by the member state.

The German, Netherlands and United Kingdom Governments had submitted in particular that a state could incur liability for late transposition of a directive only if there had been a serious, that is, manifest and grave breach of Community law for which it could be held responsible.

The Court had held that the principle of state liability for loss and damage caused to individuals as a result of breaches of Community law for which the state could be held responsible was inherent in the system of the Treaty. Joined Cases C-6/90 and C-9/90 *Francovich v Italian Republic* [The Times November 20, 1991] [1991] ICR 722; [1991] ECR I-5357, paragraph 33; Joined Cases C-46/93 and C-48/93 *Brasserie du Pêcheur SA v Federal Republic of Germany* [The Times March 7, 1996] [1996] 2 WLR 506, paragraph 31; Case C-392/93 *R v HM Treasury, Ex parte British Telecommunications plc* [The Times April 15, 1996] [1996] QB 615,

paragraph 38 and Case C-5/94 *R v MAFF, Ex parte Hedley Lomas (Hedley) Ltd* [The Times June 6, 1996].

The Court had, further, held in those judgments that the conditions under which state liability gave rise to a right to reparation depended on the nature of the breach of Community law giving rise to the loss and damage.

In those judgments other than *Francovich*, the Court, having regard to the circumstances of the case, had held that individuals who had suffered damage had a right to reparation where three conditions were met:

(i) the rule of law infringed must have been intended to confer rights on individuals;

(ii) the breach must be sufficiently serious; and

(iii) there must be a direct causal link between the breach of the obligation resting on the state and the damage sustained by the injured parties.

It was clear from *Francovich*, which, like the present cases, concerned non-transposition of a directive within the prescribed period, that the full effectiveness of the third paragraph of article 189 of the EC Treaty required that there should be a right to reparation where the result prescribed by the directive entailed the grant of rights to individuals, the content of those rights was identifiable on the basis of the provisions of the directive, and a causal link existed between the breach of the state's obligation and the loss and damage suffered by the injured parties.

In substance, the conditions laid down by all those judgments were the same, since the condition that

there should be a sufficiently serious breach, although not expressly mentioned in *Francovich*, was evident from the circumstances of that case.

When the Court held that the conditions under which state liability gave rise to a right to reparation depended on the nature of the breach of Community law causing the damage, that meant that those conditions were to be applied according to each type of situation.

On the one hand, a breach of Community law was sufficiently serious if a Community institution or a member state, in the exercise of its rule-making powers, manifestly and gravely disregarded the limits on those powers.

On the other hand, if, at the time when it committed the infringement, the member state was not called on to make legislative choices and had only considerably reduced, or even no, discretion, the mere infringement of Community law might be sufficient to establish the existence of a sufficiently serious breach.

So where, as in *Francovich*, a member state failed, in breach of the third paragraph of article 189 of the Treaty, to take any of the measures necessary to achieve the result prescribed by a directive within the period it laid down, that state manifestly and gravely disregarded the limits on its discretion.

Consequently, such a breach gave rise to a right to reparation on the part of individuals if the result prescribed by the directive entailed the grant of rights to them, the content of those rights was identifiable from the directive, and the causal link between breach and

injury existed: no other conditions needed to be taken into consideration.

In particular, such reparation could not depend on a prior finding by the Court of Justice of an infringement of Community law attributable to the state, or on the existence of intentional fault or negligence on the part of the organ of the state to which the infringement was attributable.

The second question asked whether the result prescribed by article 7 of Directive 90/314 entailed the grant to package travellers of refund and reparation rights in the event of the insolvency of the travel organiser or the retailer party to the contract, and whether the content of those rights could be sufficiently identified.

Article 7, according to its actual wording, prescribed, as the result of its implementation, an obligation for the organiser to have sufficient security for the refund of money paid over and for the reparation of the consumer in the event of insolvency.

Since the purpose of such security was to protect consumers against the financial risks arising from the insolvency of package travel organisers, the Community law which required the organiser to have sufficient security for the refund of money paid over and for the reparation of the consumer in the event of insolvency.

Any other interpretation would be illogical, since the purpose of the security which organisers had to offer under article 7 was to

enable consumers to obtain a refund of money or to be repaid.

That result was confirmed by further matters considered by the Court.

The persons having rights under article 7 were sufficiently identified as consumers, as identified by article 2 of the directive, and the same was true of the content of those rights.

In answering further questions by the national court on Directive 90/314, the Court of Justice held, inter alia, in relation to the German Government's claim that the period prescribed for transposition of the directive was too short, that that kind of circumstance could not justify a failure to transpose a directive within the prescribed period.

If the period did indeed prove to be too short, the only step compatible with Community law available to the member state was to take the appropriate initiatives within the Community in order to have the competent Community institution grant an extension of the period.

On the grounds stated by it, the Court of Justice ruled:

1 Failure to take any measure to transpose a directive in order to achieve the result it prescribed within the period laid down for that purpose constituted per se a serious breach of Community law and consequently gave rise to a right of reparation for individuals suffering injury if the result prescribed by the directive entailed the grant to individuals of rights whose content was identifiable and a causal link existed between the breach of the state's obligation and the loss and damage suffered.

2 The result prescribed by article 7 of Directive 90/314 entailed the grant to package travellers of rights guaranteeing a refund of money paid over and their reparation in the event of the organiser's insolvency; the content of those rights was sufficiently identifiable.

3 In order to comply with article 9 of the directive, the member state should have adopted, within the period prescribed, all the necessary measures to ensure that, as from January 1, 1993, individuals would have effective protection against the risk of the insolvency of the organiser and/or retailer party to the contract.

4 If a member state allowed the package travel organiser and/or retailer party to a contract to require payment of a deposit of up to 10 per cent towards the travel price, with a maximum of DM500, the protective purpose pursued by article 7 of Directive 90/314 was not satisfied unless a refund of that deposit was also guaranteed in the event of the insolvency of the organiser and/or retailer party.

5 Article 7 was to be interpreted as meaning that the "security" of which organisers must offer sufficient evidence was lacking even if, on payment of the travel price, travellers were in possession of documents of value and that the Federal Republic of Germany could not have omitted altogether to transpose Directive 90/314 on the basis of the Bundesgerichtshof's "advance payment" judgment of March 12, 1987.

6 Directive 90/314 did not require member states to adopt specific measures in relation to article 7 in order to protect package travellers against their own negligence.

Court of Appeal

Fear of law no excuse for delay in claim

Coban v Allen and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Patrick Russell

[Judgment October 8]

A reasonable man was one who obeyed the law: he could not say that it was reasonable for him to have taken a course which was calculated to enable him to disobey it.

A plaintiff seeking to bring an action in negligence outside the limitation period under the special time limit provisions in section 14A of the Limitation Act 1980, as inserted, could not rely on his fear of being exposed as an illegal UK resident as a reason for not seeking professional advice as to his constructive knowledge for the purpose of ascertaining the starting date for reckoning the period of limitation.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff, Mehmet Coban, from an order on a preliminary issue by Judge Roger Cooke in the Mayor's and City of London County Court on May 26, 1995, dismissing his claim for damages for negligence against a firm of solicitors, F. Barnes and Son, Romford, the second defendant.

Section 14A of the Limitation Act 1980, inserted by section 1 of the Latent Damage Act 1986, provides for a special time limit for negligence actions where facts relevant to a cause of action were not known at the date of accrual. By section 14A(3) and (4) an action shall not be brought either six years from the date on which the cause of action accrued or three years from the starting date as defined.

Section 14A(5) defines the starting date as "the earliest date on which the plaintiff... first had both the knowledge required for bringing an action for damages in respect of the relevant damage and a right to bring such an action."

Section 14A(10) provides: "... a person's knowledge includes knowledge which he might reasonably have been expected to acquire... (b) from facts ascertainable by him with the help of appropriate expert advice which it is reasonable for him to seek..."

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the plaintiff had come here as a visitor in 1978 and then became an overstayer. In 1985 he and the first defendant became the joint registered proprietors of premises in Ilford from where they ran a fish and chip shop in partnership.

In 1986 they fell out and the first defendant purportedly threatened the plaintiff that if he sought his rights under the partnership she would report him to the immigration authorities.

She instructed the solicitors to effect a transfer of the premises into her sole name in consideration of a payment of £5,000 to be made by her to the plaintiff. The plaintiff claimed that his signature on the transfer had been forged and that he had never received £5,000.

In 1987 the first defendant sold the shop to third parties. In 1992 the plaintiff was informed by a letter from the immigration authorities that he could remain in the UK.

In 1993 the plaintiff went to his

present solicitors who issued the writ in the action in May 1993. His claim, put broadly, was that the defendant solicitors were negligent in allowing the first defendant to acquire the sole ownership of the shop, without adequately safeguarding his interest in it.

It was agreed that the plaintiff's cause of action accrued in November 1986, when the purported transfer into the sole name of the first defendant was registered at the Land Registry. Accordingly an action in negligence against the solicitors became statute barred in November 1992 unless the case fell within section 14A of the 1980 Act.

The question whether the action was statute barred or not was tried as a preliminary issue. The judge held that it was.

Mr Patchett-Joyce argued that in and after early 1988, when the plaintiff saw other people in occupation of the shop, the only reasonable course for him to take was either to go back to the solicitors or to do what he did in 1993, that is, to go off to new solicitors.

Had he done either of those things the material facts would have been ascertainable with the help of the expert advice he would have received. Thus, it was said, the case fell clearly under section 14A(10)(b).

Mr Siley, while accepting that the material facts would have been ascertainable with the help of appropriate expert advice, submitted that it was reasonable for the plaintiff not to seek such advice before 1992 on the ground that until he received the letter from the immigration authorities he had a well founded fear that that would

result in the first defendant carrying out her threat to reveal his immigration status to the police.

His Lordship said that it was reasonable for the plaintiff to have thought that once he had gone to solicitors the chain of events he anticipated would necessarily occur. So the only question was whether his fear that to seek advice would result in the revelation of his immigration status to the police made it reasonable for him not to do so.

In applying the test propounded by the Court of Appeal in *Nash v Eli Lilly & Co* [1993] 1 WLR 782, 799 in relation to the virtually identical provisions of section 14(3) of the 1980 Act, it was necessary to ask whether a reasonable person placed in the situation of the plaintiff and having his character and intelligence would or would not have done so.

The application of the test to the plaintiff was highly unusual. His duty, in order to comply with immigration law, was either to leave the country or, more realistically, to make an application for leave to remain.

If that was his duty, could it be said that it was reasonable for him to do neither and to continue to break the law? It could not.

Mr Patchett-Joyce made a telling distinction. He accepted that the plaintiff's conduct was under the influence of a fear that that did not make it reasonable.

That was correct. Generally speaking, a reasonable man was to be taken to be one who obeyed the law. Accordingly, the plaintiff, being bound to obey the law, could not say that it was reasonable for him to take a course which was calculated to enable him to disobey it.

From early 1988 on the plaintiff's only reasonable course was to seek the appropriate advice. The three-year period under section 14A(4)(b) ended in early 1991 and the action became statute barred in November 1992.

LORD JUSTICE AULD and Sir Patrick Russell agreed.

Solicitors: Goldsmid Davies Mathies; Mills & Reeve, Cambridge.

Sentence on father was too long

C v G

A first custodial sentence of 13 months for contempt of court imposed on a father of two young children who over a period of three months had committed 18 separate breaches of a non-molestation order made in favour of the children's mother was, in the circumstances, manifestly too long.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Auld and Sir Patrick Russell) so held on October 4 when reducing from 13 to eight months the overall sentence imposed by Judge Pearce in Hinchin County Court in July 1995 on the father for breaches of an injunction made on March 18, 1995, that had ordered the father not to use violence or to harass the mother or to have contact with her.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that the breaches by the father consisted mainly of shouting threats and abuse, entering the road where the mother lived, going to her house, telephoning her and sending her uninvited mail.

The judge found that there was nothing mentally wrong with the father and that he knew the seriousness of breaching the order. But he was a comparatively young man with no relevant court record and was a fond, verging on obsessive father.

The breaches stemmed from his distress rather than from malice. Further, he was to be given some credit for the admissions that he made to the judge and, at the end of the day, for accepting his breaches and apologising for them.

The 13-month sentence was manifestly too long having regard to the mitigating factors.

Liquidator's agreement champertous

Ward v Aitken and Others

In re Oasis Merchandising Services Ltd

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Hutton

[Judgment October 9]

An agreement between the liquidator of an insolvent company and a third party to share the prospective fruits of claims against former directors for alleged wrongful trading was champertous and therefore void, since it was not a sale of the property of the company so as to fall within his powers under paragraph 6 of Schedule 4 to the Insolvency Act 1986.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the sixth respondent, London Wall Litigation Claims Ltd, from an order of Mr Justice Robert Walker (The Times June 9, 1995) (a) on the application of the first, second, fourth and fifth respondents, Timothy Aitken, Michael Storey, Jonathan Aitken and John Hemmings respectively, granting a stay of proceedings brought against them, pursuant to section 214 of the 1986 Act, by Barry John Ward as liquidator of Oasis Merchandising Services Ltd and (b) withdrawing an approval for the liquidator to enter into an agreement with London Wall Litigation Claims Ltd which provided for London Wall to finance and share with the liquidator the proceeds of actions taken by the liquidator under section 214.

Section 214 provided that in the liquidation of an insolvent company, the court, on the application of the liquidator, could declare that in certain circumstances a director was liable to make such contribution to the company's assets as the court thought proper.

Section 436 provided: "... 'property' includes money, goods, things in action, land and every description of property ... and also obligations and every description of interest, whether present or future or vested or contingent, arising out of, or incidental to, property."

Paragraph 6 of Schedule 4 provided in substance that the powers exercisable without sanction in any winding up included power to sell any of the company's property.

Mr Robert Wright, QC for London Wall; Mrs Elspeth Talbot Rice for Mr T. Aitken and Mr Storey; Mr Robin Dicker for Mr J. Aitken and Mr Hemmings; neither the liquidator nor the third respondent, Jonathan Aitken, KJED, appeared or was represented.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON, giving the judgment of the court, said the abolition of criminal and tortious liability for champerty, the giving of assistance or encouragement to a litigant by a person with no interest in the litigation nor any other proper motive in connection with a share in the fruits of the action, had left unaffected any rule of law that a contract involving champerty was to be treated as contrary to public policy or otherwise illegal.

The judge had stayed an action brought by the liquidator of Oasis Merchandising Services against the first to fifth respondents, directors or alleged shadow directors of Oasis. The liquidator, with the authority of the Companies Court, had made an agreement for London Wall to finance the action in return for a share of the proceeds.

The company had no assets which could be utilised to fund wrongful trading proceedings before going into receivership. The company had created a debenture in favour of Beaverbrook Investment plc which as a secured creditor had been able to realise its entire assets. The company's creditors were not able or willing to fund such proceedings. London Wall was not a creditor.

The agreement was expressed to be an equitable assignment of the fruits of the action and reflected the natural desire of London Wall to realise as much control as possible over the litigation for which it was providing funds.

The basis of the application for a stay was that the agreement was champertous and the action being funded under it was an abuse of process. It was common ground that the agreement was one for assignment of the fruits of litigation, rather than a transfer of property carrying a right of litigation or a legal or equitable assignment of a cause of action. It was not disputed that the agreement was champertous.

But the liquidator and London Wall contended that the power conferred on the liquidator by paragraph 6 of Schedule 4 to the 1986 Act "to sell any of the company's property" gave statutory authority to the sale of the fruits of the litigation and so made valid what would otherwise be void for champerty.

The judge decided that the fruits were not "the company's property" within paragraph 6 of Schedule 4. The primary question was to construe the liquidator's power of sale. The provisions relating to company insolvency did not define the property of a company which liquidators could sell, save to the extent that "property" was given an extended meaning.

A distinction might be drawn between assets which were the property of the company at the time of the commencement of the liquidation, and the property representing the same, including rights of action which arose and might have been pursued by the company itself prior to the liquidation, and assets which arose only after the liquidation of the

company and were recoverable only by the liquidator pursuant to statutory powers conferred on him.

The scheme of the 1986 Act suggested that only the former fell within "the property of the company" which a liquidator could sell.

Thus a right of action against directors for misfeasance which the liquidator could enforce under the 1986 Act and the fruits of such an action were property of the company capable of being charged by a debenture, because the right of action arose and was available to the company prior to the winding up.

But with that could be contrasted the right of action by a liquidator, and the fruits of such an action, for fraudulent preference or fraudulent or wrongful trading, which were not the property of the company and not caught by a debenture.

On its true construction "the property of the company" in paragraph 6 of Schedule 4 did not include the fruits of litigation brought by the liquidator under section 214.

As a matter of policy there was much to be said for allowing a liquidator to sell the fruits of an action, provided it did not give the purchaser the right to influence the course of, or interfere with the liquidator's conduct of the proceedings. The liquidator as an officer of the court exercising a statutory power in pursuing the proceedings must be free to behave accordingly.

Their Lordships were far from happy that the agreement enabled London Wall to dictate how the liquidator was to conduct the action.

Solicitors: Inglewood Brown Beniston & Garrett; Jay Benning Levine & Pelz, Westminster; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

Restriction power to be used sparingly

B v B (Child orders: Restricting applications)

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Roch

[Judgment September 25]

The provisions of section 9(1)(4) of the Children Act 1989 enabling the court to prohibit a person from making an application under the Act without first obtaining leave were a power to be exercised by the court only sparingly and with great care.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing in part an appeal by a father from a direction tied to a residence order made by Judge Philip Price, QC, in North and Port Talbot County Court in November 1995 that the father should not be allowed to make an application in respect of his son aged 10 without the leave of the court.

Section 9(1) of the 1989 Act provides: "(1) On disposing of any application for an order under this Act, the court may... order that no application for an order under this Act of any specified kind may be made with respect to the child concerned by any person named in the order without leave of the court."

Mr Jonathan Furness for the father; Mrs Davina Gannon for the mother.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that in *In re H (Child orders: Restricting applications)* [1991] FCR 896, 899 she had said of section 9(1)(4):

"It is a very useful weapon in the court's arsenal to keep litigants in family matters, who are carried away by an excessive view of the case or by excessive bitterness, from taking up the time of the court and upsetting the other family."

"It is not... a run-of-the-mill type of order, nor should it generally be used in that form, save by a minority but nevertheless substantial minority of cases where the bitterness between the parties inevitably is detrimental to the child."

The instant case was one where the bitterness between the parties was detrimental to the child, but it was not a reason for using the subsection. An order was not to be made unless there was a clear basis on evidence for doing it.

It was a power which the court should exercise with great care and

sparingly, because an order would inevitably deny to a party his inalienable right to bring proceedings in the court and to be heard in matters which affected his children.

Consequently, it should not be used unless that parent had crossed the line from making applications which it was his right to make, to making applications which were in one sense oppressive, or might be said to be vexatious.

It was difficult to have the label "vexatious litigant" pinned on a litigant. An elaborate and careful procedure had to be gone through.

But there were people who in family proceedings pursued their argument beyond that which was reasonable and those people, who could not be treated as vexatious litigants, were at a stage prior to being a vexatious litigant but were acting unreasonably. Those people, for the sake of the children had to be stopped.

This father could not possibly be said to be in that category. There were no grounds on which the judge could have made the order and it should be set aside.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE, agreeing, said that the power under

section 9(1)(4) to forbid future applications without leave represented a substantial interference with the fundamental principle of public policy enshrined in our unwritten constitution that all citizens enjoyed a right of unrestricted access to the Queen's courts.

So jealously guarded was that principle that order restricting rights of future litigation was normally reserved as a weapon of last resort.

Section 9(1)(4) therefore fell to be strictly construed. It should be read in conjunction with the first and most important provision in the 1989 Act, section 1(1), which made the welfare of the child the court's paramount consideration when determining any question with respect to the child's future.

The judge had to ask himself in every case whether the best interests of the child required interference with the fundamental freedom of a parent to raise issues affecting the child's welfare before the court and when such issues arose.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH agreed.

Solicitors: Hutchinson Morris & Harrett, North; T. Llewellyn Jones, North.

Legal aid not available for patient

Regina v Egan

Before Lord Justice McCowan, Mr Justice Ognall and Mrs Justice Beat

[Judgment October 8]

Where a person was found unfit to plead and, following a finding of fact that he had done the act charged was made the subject of a hospital order without restriction, he was neither a convicted nor an accused person and so was not entitled to legal aid under section 21 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 in relation to his appeal against the finding of fact.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated when quashing a legal aid order granted by the registrar in reliance upon regula-

tion 10 of the Legal Aid in Criminal and Care Proceedings (General) Regulations (SI 1989 No 344).

Their Lordships dismissed the appeal of Michael Egan against the finding of fact, following a finding that he was unfit to plead, on November 10, 1995 at Croydon Crown Court (Judge McHale and a jury) that he had done the act charged against him as theft, on which he was made the subject of a hospital order under section 5(5) of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act 1964. No restriction order was made.

Mr David Taylor, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals,

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FOCUS

Human touch that counts

Edward Fennell introduces a report on the scheme that spurs companies to develop and value their staff

The human dimension remains the blind-spot in discussions about business success in the UK. Compared with macroeconomic trends, the contribution of people barely seems to count as a factor in the equation. Investors in People Week, starting today, aims to restore some balance to the debate. Designed primarily to promote better awareness of the Investors in People Standard (now in its fifth year), it is also an opportunity to underline the contributions made by people, in teams and as individuals, to business performance.

Take, for example, DHL, the global delivery service, which is convinced that the critical element in retaining customer loyalty is the skills and disposition of its workforce.

Chris Greaves, UK director of human resources for DHL, says: "We see our people as being the 'added value' in what we offer to our clients and we are very keen that individuals should have a better understanding of their role in the organisation. The method we've used to achieve this objective is Investors in People."

After a rigorous assessment, DHL was recently recognised as having met the Investors in People Standard. This was the result of a two-year process of refining the way the organisation was managed.

As Chris Greaves points out: "We did not undertake this exercise to get the 'gong' but in order to realise improvements in the way we managed the business. The value of using the Investors in People framework is that it helped us to achieve consistently what we had been doing sporadically in the past. It also helped managers appreciate better the responsibilities which they had for developing their staff."

The DHL experience is borne out by a new survey of British industry published this week by Coopers and Lybrand and Investors in People UK (the organisation which upholds, promotes and renews the Investors in People Standard).

Making People Your Business provides graphic evidence that there is plenty of room for improvement in the performance of many British com-



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

panies. Although there is lip service paid at the top of organisations to the importance of their people, there is often a painful failure to put theory into practice.

The report explains that there are serious gaps between what needs to be done and what is being done across a wide range of management functions. In particular there is an "involvement gap" which leaves many employees insufficiently engaged with their organisation. As a result, they feel undervalued and demotivated.

Mary Chapman, the chief executive of Investors in People UK, hopes that the report will stimulate more organisations to look seriously at how her organisation can help to cure this problem. She says: "The new report captures the mood of the moment. It is noticeable that as soon as we move out of recession skill shortages start to re-emerge."

"There is a gap between the best intentions of employers and what is happening in practice. The failures identified by the report exist because many of the initiatives introduced by employers are not being co-ordinated effectively; nor are they in line with the real needs of organisations."

Failures are in themselves a reflection of the poor skills of many managers which feeds back into their work. This in its turn leads to a performance gap since the business strategies adopted by many chief executives are not delivering the required results. Meanwhile, skills shortages act as a brake on business success with the result that many enterprises cannot take full advantage of the UK's competitive advantage in terms of wage levels and labour market flexibility.

Effective investment in people, using the Investors in People model, is seen as being the way forward. By developing people to meet the organisation's needs and helping to

fulfil individuals' aspirations for career progression it is possible to break out of the cycle of underachievement.

Investors in People enjoys widespread backing from all sides of the British industrial and political scene. Within the National Targets for Education and Training, for example, an objective has been set for 70 per cent of all organisations employing 200 or more employees and 35 per cent of those employing 50 or more, to achieve the standard by 2000.

Already, almost 4,200 organisations have been recognised as meeting the Investors in People Standard and there are a further 20,500 committed to doing so. In total they cover 27 per cent of the UK workforce. The results so far are positive.

A survey published in September and conducted by the independent Institute of Employment Studies concluded: "Most employers involved with Investors believe that it already has, or will in the future, contribute to improve business outcomes."

The author of the report, Jim Hillage, went on to say: "Investors in People is a successful initiative. Both employers and employees like it and see benefits from it. It appears to spur employers to improve the way they manage their workforce and therefore their business, with consequent positive effects on workforces and business performance."

There is still a long way to go, however, before IIP is fully adopted by British industry. But Mary Chapman is optimistic. She says: "Investors in People is an idea whose time has come. There is a groundswell movement among employees who are demanding that their development needs should be met."

"Meanwhile, a lot of the energy and commitment at the top of organisations is being wasted because it is not translated into relevant actions at the grassroots. By adopting the Investors in People Standard employers can achieve their aims and bridge the gap between aspiration and performance."

● Making People Your Business is available at £25 (plus £2.50 P&P) from Investors in People UK, PO Box 204, London, SE90 7LW. Tel: 0171-701 0388. Fax: 0171-708 1521.



Mary Chapman, chief executive, Investors in People UK

Global industry picks up a British idea

Investors in People was developed specifically as a framework to help to improve the competitiveness of enterprises in the United Kingdom.

But with national boundaries being erased by the creation of global markets — let alone the single market of the European Union — Investors in People UK soon found itself being approached by governments and business outside the UK who wished to implement the Standard.

This posed a dilemma. If IIP was really a powerful instrument for raising performance why should it be handed out to the world at large?

The reality, however, was that once the Standard had been published there was little anyone could do to stop employers making use of it anywhere in the world. So the decision was taken to go international, but with a cautious approach.

The first significant venture has been in Australia, where a partnership has been established with the Australian Institute of Management. Over a period of 18 months a pilot scheme has been operating and the first organisations are currently being assessed for the award of the Standard.

The critical factor is that the same standards as in the UK should be rigorously applied. For that reason all the Australian participants so far have

The Investors' Standard is attracting interest from overseas

been trained and the processes "quality-assured" from Britain. Investors in People UK retains ownership of the standard and merely licences it to the overseas partner.

Work with organisations in Australia, however, is relatively easy. There are no (or at least few) problems of language or interpretation. Much more difficult is work in those countries — such as in continental Europe — where issues of translation and interpretation will arise.

Sensibly, Investors in People UK has started off by working with organisations which already have a foothold in Britain. Where there is a British wing of a multinational then the first step at least is not a problem. The UK end is treated in the same way as any other organisation. The challenge then is to start transposing it abroad.

Investors in People UK hopes that multinational pilot schemes will now go ahead with between ten and 20 organisations operating primarily in Denmark, Holland,

Ireland and Germany. For these schemes to work, however, the culture of the organisations has to be right. Already, one retail card operation which has a strong presence in Holland is on board and further developments are expected shortly.

Not surprisingly, in the light of the reputation of Britain's industrial record, there is a degree of scepticism in some countries about whether anything of value in relation to industry can come out of the country. Certainly, some Germans were sceptical when they were first approached.

However, it may be that Investors in People is going to turn out to be yet another British invention which is exploited more effectively by industrial rivals than in the country of its birth. The level of interest is growing sharply and extends even as far as the United States and Canada.

What is already evident is that Investors in People is as strong, if not stronger, than the European Quality Award (its nearest rival in the field).

As the international hunger for quality awards increases, Investors in People UK can expect to be sought after with some eagerness — a UK export which genuinely beats the opposition.

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Labour joins the party

If the Labour Party wins the next election, part of the credit should go to Investors in People. Not only has the party announced that it will strengthen the role of the Standard in British industry but it is also applying it in its own organisation.

The Labour Party staff is scheduled to be assessed before Christmas. If it is successful then Labour will go into the election as the only party to be recognised as an Investor in People.

Over at Conservative Central Office, meanwhile, it is a different story. The Conservative press staff had no idea what Investors in People was about and the party organisation has made no commitment to it. This is despite the fact that ministers at the Department for Education and Employment have been keen supporters of the Standard since it was launched.

Indeed, just a few months ago James Paice, the Education and Employment Minister, said: "Companies ignore Investors in People at their peril. It is crucial for all companies to keep one step ahead of their competitors."

"The IIP Standard," he said, "increases motivation, profitability and productivity. It is also — crucially in the world in which we live — very effective in the management of change. If you don't take advantage of IIP, beware: your competitor will."

Judith Chivers, the Investors in People Co-ordinator for the Labour Party, says: "Making a commitment to achieve the Investors in People Standard was an initiative which came from the senior management team led by Tom Sawyer. It was felt to provide a useful framework for change in the party and in particular to help to implement a new managerial culture."

As a result, each of the 370

Tony Blair is modernising his party's approach to its own staff



James Paice: "crucial"

members of the Labour Party staff now holds an Investors in People handbook and a laminated card which sums up the Investors' principles. It also reminds the bearer that the mission of the party's staff is:

"To secure the election of a Labour government and help sustain it in that position."

Assuming Labour wins power next year then Investors in People can expect to play an ever greater position in industrial life. As one of the party's policy papers comments: "Investors in People is developing as a widely-respected Standard for developing more enterprises and businesses... (it) is a quality standard which has the potential for further development."

Labour believes that IIP should be taken up by a much wider range of organisations and, in particular, it wants IIP to become more accessible and user-friendly to smaller companies. The Trades Union

Congress is also working with Investors in People UK on a number of initiatives to promote a better understanding among trade unions and their members about what IIP means.

Part of the aim of this exercise is to encourage a "bottom-up" demand for adoption of the standard. Mary Chapman, chief executive of IIP UK, says: "Employees recognise that no longer can they be guaranteed a job for life but they do want to be trained and developed so as to be able to cope with change."

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, sees IIP as part of a new deal between bosses and their workers. He says: "We've supported Investors in People because it is a valuable tool which organisations can make use of to make sure they are investing properly in training and development. The commercial success of companies that have achieved the standard and the personal reward for their employees makes Investors an exemplary model for training and development."

This endorsement by the unions is perceived as being an important contribution to raising the level of take-up of IIP. Philip Chorley, the director of the National Advisory Council for Education and Training Targets (Nacett), considers that the supporters of the Standard should now become more energetic and proactive in their backing. He said: "We should all do much more than we are currently doing to support the take-up of the Standard."

And deeds speak louder than words — a lesson that the Conservative and Liberal Democrat organisation should, perhaps, take to heart.

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Big firms are slow to invest

Large companies complain about bureaucracy but are surprised at the Standard's effect, says Tony Dawe

With hundreds of local organisations committed to the programme and 213 already good enough to be recognised as "Investors in People", Gloucestershire Training and Enterprise Council's Investors' team provides living proof that one of the Government's newest training initiatives does work.

Charged with giving support to those in the county eager to achieve the national standard for involving all staff in improving business performance, Gloucestershire Tec has been inundated with inquiries and has succeeded in guiding a third of all the organisations involved to the recognition level.

This achievement has put the West Country council well ahead of the 90 other similar organisations in England and Wales and has earned it praise from James Paice, the Education and Employment Minister, for exceeding "challenging local targets".

But while Gloucestershire sweeps ahead with the support of local business, there are rumblings of discontent about the programme in other parts of the country.

Some training and enterprise councils believe they have been set over-ambitious targets by the Government for "commitments" and "recognitions", especially as they are experiencing difficulty in persuading larger companies to take part.

Chris Humphries, Tec national policy director, has pointed out that fewer than one in three companies with 50 or more staff is involved in any way with the Investors in People scheme.

Some organisations have hit back by claiming that the scheme is too costly and bureaucratic and have highlighted statistics which reveal that Tec's spend up to 30 per cent of their annual budget on administrative costs, partly to meet elaborate regulations.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has complained that as well as being too expensive the scheme is administered by people with no experience of local government. Leeds City Council is even investigating the possibility of carrying out many of the assessments itself to "provide a cheaper and more effective alternative to the Tec route".

John Howell, chief executive of Solotech, serving six south London boroughs, says: "There is enormous value in bringing people with different

experiences into local authorities to show them how things are done in the business environment."

The south London Tec has bucked the national trend by involving a significant majority of the 130 companies with more than 200 employees in its area in the programme. At the same time, it is trying to encourage as many as possible of the 87 per cent of companies in the area which employ fewer than 25 people to take part without compromising its standards.

"The programme might be a little bureaucratic, especially the assessment process, but I have never heard a business which has committed itself to the scheme speak badly about it," Mr Howell says.

"Many have said it has had a profound impact in ensuring that their business objectives are achieved. A major retail chain in our area reported that its commitment to Investors in People led to a measurable decline in staff turnover with a resultant improvement in customer service and reduction in staff training costs. In the manufacturing sector, companies have measured efficiency gains by employees as well as recording an improvement in morale."

Edward Hall, Investors in People manager at the Central and Inner London North Tec, says: "The companies I

deal with daily tell me that it is not the award that is important but the processes they go through that add value to the organisation."

John Roberts, Investors in People manager at Gloucestershire Tec, has cut down on the unpopular bureaucracy by simplifying the 24 assessment indicators into five phases.

The first involves an organisation making a commitment and communicating the decision to all employees while the second deals with planning and allocating responsibility for the programme.

The third and longest phase requires the organisation and the Tec to define the training and development needs of individuals in relation to the business plan; the fourth deals with evaluating the outcome and the fifth in preparing for assessment and recognition as an Investor in People.

Mr Roberts says: "One large local company with significant industrial relations problems reported that after its commitment to the scheme management and staff became as one, with a drop in absenteeism and an increase in job satisfaction and in profitability."

John Howell, chief executive of Solotech, serving six south London boroughs, says: "There is enormous value in bringing people with different

Lucy Hodges talks to some of the companies that have signed up for Investors



Setting the standard (clockwise from top left): Bass Taverns; Shepherd Construction; Roy Lecky-Thompson of the City law firm, Cameron Markby Hewitt; Datalink Electronics

Standard bearers who herald success

THE BARS
BAR WORK has traditionally been low-paid, part-time and unskilled. No longer. At Bass Taverns today, pub and restaurant workers have organised career paths, recognised qualifications, and better pay as a result of a £10 million investment in people.

Bill Culshaw, human resources manager, says: "What we have done is to transform the image of this kind of job, and we have seen a dramatic change especially in staff turnover among trained people, which is now running at 20 per cent compared with 80 per cent before."

The big change came in 1989 when Bass Taverns was formed out of six regional companies. The company looked across the Atlantic to American theme restaurants, where waiters and waitresses dress up in funny hats and joke around with customers, and decided to import a number of ideas.

People now audition rather than apply for jobs. "If staff are not capable of working up enthusiasm and giving people a good time, they're not the sort of people we want," explains Mr Culshaw. Initially, the company had run training sessions to try to give bar staff "buzz", but they hadn't worked. That was because it is difficult to train people in buzz if they don't have it already. So, applicants for

jobs are now asked to tell a story or do a dance before they are hired by Bass. The results have been good. The Irish theme bars, O'Neills, are performing well above appraisal and that, according to the company, is largely due to the quality of staff and the excitement they generate.

Bass has developed three skill levels for training: bronze, silver and gold. The bronze or basic level includes items such as product knowledge, customer service and stocking. The silver award is NVQ level one, covering hygiene and cellar knowledge. The gold award moves into the supervisory area and includes rostering and the beginning of management training. The company has saved £15 million on relief manager costs.

THE BUILDERS
PUTTING money and effort into training is something that Shepherd Construction, the York-based national building contractor, has done for years. So, when it learnt about the Investors in People standard, it decided to try it.

Peter Blackburn, training and development manager, says: "We introduced a five-year training and development plan. The business did well despite the recession of the early 1990s. Shepherd sponsors undergraduates at the universities of Salford and Loughborough, and at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. It also sponsors courses at these institutions in commercial management and quantity surveying and construction management.

"We select the undergraduates and we guarantee them work experience," says Peter Blackburn. "The whole idea is to try to make sure the industry gets some of the high calibre people."

The company has deliberately boosted its off-site project management through a national training scheme, in conjunction with Leeds Metropolitan University, which can produce two staff each year for promotion to the job of construction manager.

The company is also proud of the opportunities it gives its workers through its induction programme and its modern apprenticeships. It runs one of only two in-house site management certification schemes of the Institute of Building.

THE ENGINEERS
IT IS unusual for small companies to invest much in staff training, but Datalink Electronics is not a run-of-the-mill firm. Born in 1984 to give work to four redundant Hawker Siddeley engineers, it has always ploughed money back into the

business and today spends 2.5 per cent of turnover on training.

Four years ago the firm realised it was going to have problems expanding further without more staff training but it didn't know how to go about this. In the past it had sent employees off on training courses as and when necessary. But that did not always work. "If you don't give people responsibility that they're trained for, they get demotivated," says the managing director, Eric Luckwell. "We didn't have a framework."

Loughborough Tec asked them to put together a business development plan, which they did. The company began to forge ahead. Staff came up with ideas for their own training.

"I personally became quite motivated because I saw our performance figures were beginning to rise quite substantially," says Mr Luckwell. Turnover rose by 30 per cent and profits were up, yet the company had taken on only one extra person. Absenteeism and sickness are less than 1 per cent.

THE LAWYERS
THE first City law firm to attain the Investors in People Standard was Cameron Markby Hewitt, which employs 600 people at its offices near Tower Bridge, London. Specialising in banking, corpo-

rate and insurance law, the firm made a point of developing management training five years ago. "This was a very new concept for lawyers," says Roy Lecky-Thompson, former personnel director of the firm who introduced the Investors in People initiative.

"We identified that to be effective when the firm was growing and faced with competition, it was no longer possible to say that lawyers were technically competent they also had to be able to guide, coach and motivate their staff."

The firm scooped a national training award from the Department for Education and Employment in 1991, the same year as Investors in People was launched. There were concerns that the scheme would bring few, if any, benefits, however. Staff in the company's office saw the scheme as yet another management initiative, wondering what was in it for them. It therefore required a lot of selling downwards.

Interestingly, the number of staff sent on external courses declined during the exercise because training was done instead at the workplace. People began to teach one another. They thought about what they needed to do the job better and who could help them. As a result the company's spending on training declined. Productivity has increased.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
1991 and 1994

How to get employers on side

Even the best-run companies find the Standard tough

Dr Phil Blackburn, the chief executive of West London Training and Enterprise Council, is ebullient about his area. Focused on Heathrow airport, about four fifths of the local businesses are foreign-owned. So when it comes to world-class standards Dr Blackburn knows exactly what he is talking about.

He says: "Our aim is to serve the needs of organisations in our area. We're not very interested in national targets or government initiatives. My primary responsibility is to local business. In carrying out the function I believe that Investors in People has an important role to play."

Unlike in less cosmopolitan areas, Dr Blackburn suspects that it is relatively easy for him to persuade his local chief executives of the benefits of the IIP approach. Often reared on American or Japanese management styles, they have no difficulty in identifying with the philosophy. Dr Blackburn says: "You need to get employers on your side and to get them involved. Fortunately, that is not too difficult around

here. Management readily understands the message."

Dr Blackburn and his team at the Tec have been careful, however, not to sell IIP as some kind of "off-the-shelf" product. He says: "Undertaking IIP is a process. In fact it contributes directly to the change process which many organisations currently need to go through."

Continuous change is, of course, the biggest challenge to managements both in the public and private sectors. Often, this entails reducing staff numbers while also arguing that people are the organisation's "most valuable resource". IIP cannot help managers sidestep the need to adjust to the right size for the market. However, it does help to ensure that people are being continually equipped with new skills and that when redundancies are necessary those who remain are re-equipped with the skills which are right for the job.

One of IIP's biggest fans is Professor Tom Cannon, who runs the Management Char-

ter Initiative. Looking around the British industrial scene he sees to many "punchbags" — that is organisations which are being continually buffeted by circumstances, overtaken by business rivals, always reacting, never ahead of the game. He says: "Companies with IIP are not like that. From what I've seen they are often bubbling with new ideas. They are at the leading edge and they are willing to take risks."

Professor Cannon sees IIP and the MCI management standards as working hand-in-hand. Companies which are using the MCI standards are more likely to achieve IIP recognition. At the same time qualified managers are more likely to see value in the IIP approach. He says: "The best-seeing sin of UK industry is the failure to recognise the human potential which lies within its own organisation. By observing the IIP Standard that is much less likely to happen."

Professor Cannon is concerned that one of the reasons for the relative failure of

British industry is the tendency to settle and be satisfied at a lower level than would be the case in the United States or in Germany. He says: "The comfort level in Britain tends to be at a lower level. Managers and entrepreneurs are content to accept lower standards."

In itself, IIP cannot cure a nation of a tendency towards complacency. The nature of the IIP process means that at least management is being continually challenged to define its objectives and to ensure its people are being developed to achieve goals.

Manpower is an organisation which has no shortage of ambition and is continually updating itself for new situations. As one of the leading agencies world-wide to provide temporary staff, especially those with business and administrative skills, it has seen a total transformation from the days when shorthand and typing skills could see a secretary through a lifetime of work. Now Manpower's "field staff"

must be thoroughly au fait with a range of IT systems and able to cope with new products, such as Windows 95, from the moment they are available.

Ouida Weaver, the head of human resources and training at Manpower, says that Investors in People appealed to her because its quality was very high. She says: "By becoming an Investor in People we recognised commercial reality. We needed to have a strategy to invest in people because that is the only way we could succeed. From what we can see right-thinking companies are achieving recognition under IIP. And once we set out to achieve the Standard I was continually surprised."

"As a manager, I believed that we had good systems in place. But having started to examine minutely what we were doing by comparison with the IIP standard lots of little gaps started to appear. We were then able to seal up those cracks systematically. IIP ensures that the message sent out by management has been understood."

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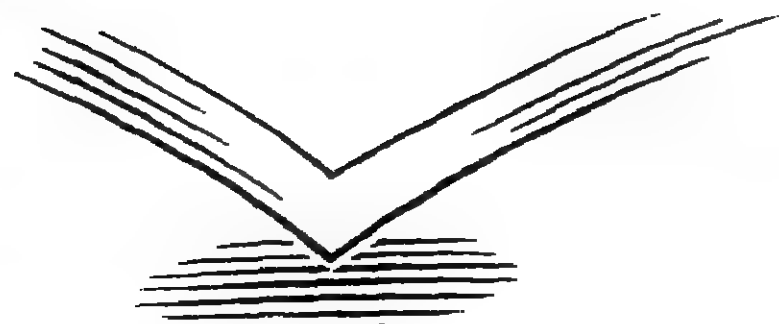
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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



Albert Fisher shows scars of another tough year

ALBERT FISHER: Full-year figures from the fruit and vegetable distributor on Thursday are likely to show another difficult year for the group. Brokers are tentatively forecasting a final figure of £40 million-plus at the pre-tax level, and before exceptional, compared with £39.5 million last time.

But the figures are likely to be accompanied by huge exceptional losses totalling about £150 million relating to the write-off of goodwill after the disposal of its German and US food distribution businesses. Brokers began trimming their forecasts several months ago when the group issued a warning about disappointing harvests.

Food processing has performed well with the supply of sauces and dressings to the McDonald's fast food chain continuing to improve. Frozen products will also have enjoyed a positive performance with last year's drought pushing up prices and creating a shortage of fresh vegetables. The performance of the seafood division will have been held back by a later-than-usual season for cockles and mussels.

PREMIER FARNELL: Half-year figures from newly merged Premier Farnell are likely to contain just three months' contribution from Premier with brokers looking for pre-tax profits of £60 million against £36 million for the corresponding period. This should be achieved on turnover up from £264.4 million to £420 million, but earnings will have taken a knock, down from 17.9p to 16.3p. Even so, shareholders will be rewarded with an increase in the half-year payout from 4.6p to 5.3p. There is unlikely to be an update

on the progress being made at integrating Premier, but the City still seems pleased with the deal.

SMITHS INDUSTRIES: The strong performance achieved by the group in the first six months is likely to have been maintained in the second half. UBS, the broker, is forecasting an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £163 million when full-year figures are released on Wednesday. Earnings per share are expected to grow by 17 per cent to 36.7p. Turnover was also sharply higher in the first half, reflecting strong organic growth across all three divisions and the benefits of acquisitions in its medical and industrial arm.

UBS believes that aerospace is likely to have suffered a flat second-half performance with post-strike rescheduling at Boeing countering solid performances in the 737 and 777 series programmes. Production rate increases recently announced in both programmes should provide further long-term growth.

NatWest Securities says the group will have to turn in an impressive performance to justify its current rating, but believes that it is capable of such a task. Both brokers agree that the aerospace industry has begun to take off after five years of recession.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES: Half-year profits due out today are likely to take a back seat, with brokers anxious to discover what action is being taken by the management to address certain problems facing the group.

The expected downturn in pre-tax profits from £42.9 million to about £41 million was signalled at the halfway stage in April and has already been widely discounted by the City.

What will be the new price levels for Famous Grouse, its premier brand, over the Christmas period? How well is the integration of Macallan proceeding, and will extra cash be needed to invest in Remy Cointreau? These are just some of the questions needing answers.

Famous Grouse now accounts for 70 per cent of operating profits, which will be down this time because of pricing pressures in the domestic market. There are signs, just as there were with Guinness, that conditions in the spirits industry are picking up, and the benefits of any recovery should be recorded in the current year.

Highland Park and Black Bottle, which were bought from Allied Domecq last year, should benefit from rising consumer interest in single malts. Earnings per share are likely to be 1p lower at 22.2p, but

there is scope for an increase in the dividend from 7.9p to 8.3p.

WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL: The main feature of third-quarter results today should be that the long-awaited recovery in earnings is finally under way, in spite of the continuing low prices for recovered materials. Brokers expect a figure of almost 20p compared with 13.7p last time.

The third quarter is traditionally the strongest and pre-tax profits for the nine months are likely to reach £121 million, an increase of £10 million on last time.

DFS FURNITURE: The main feature of Wednesday's full-year figures will be the sharp increase in turnover on the back of store opening and heavy advertising programmes. Pre-tax profits are likely to be £4 million up on last year's £26.2 million with earnings per share growing from 16.6p to 19p.

The group has moved into the Greater London area with three new stores during the period. This is certain to provide long-term advantages, but will also result in increased costs relating to store openings and advertising rates. This, in turn, will have affected margins.

M J GLEESON: An encouraging set of full-year figures are expected from the construction group when it reports on Thursday. Pre-tax profits should be £300,000 higher at £8.8 million with earnings per share up from 52.7p to 58.1p. Shareholders will be rewarded with a 6 per cent increase in the total payout to 15.85p net.



Food processing has been a bright spot for Stephen Walls at Albert Fisher

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Forward Technology, Premier Farnell.
Finals: James Halstead, Highland Distilleries.
Economic statistics: UK September Producer Prices Index, House of Commons resumes after summer break, EU finance ministers meeting in Brussels.

TOMORROW

Interims: Henry Boot & Son, Henderson Highland, Tie Rack, Warnford Investments.
Finals: London & St Lawrence.
Economic statistics: Bank of England to announce details of forthcoming gilt auctions, US Atlanta fed survey, US weekly Johnson red book sales, French 1997 budget.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Innovative Technology.
Finals: Burn Stewart Distillers, DFS Furniture, Hambros Smaller Asian Companies, Smiths Industries, Town Centre Securities.
Economic statistics: UK September PSBR, UK September unemployment, UK average earnings, unit wage costs, US September consumer prices index, French July current account balance.

THURSDAY

Interims: Audax Properties, Value & Income Trust.
Finals: none scheduled.
Economic statistics: UK BCC quarterly survey, US weekly jobless claims, US September housing starts, US September industrial production, US October Philadelphia fed survey, US August business inventories.

FRIDAY

Interims: 800 Group.
Finals: none scheduled.
Economic statistics: UK September major banking groups lending, UK September building societies lending, UK September provisional M4, UK September motor vehicle production, US August visible trade balance.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Smiths Industries, Johnson Group, TBI and William Sinclair. The Sunday Telegraph: Hold Commercial Union, Tie Rack; Buy Revelation Piccadilly Holdings, Fired Earth. Close Brothers. Mail on Sunday: Avoid Victory Corporation. Buy KS Biomedix. Independent on Sunday: Buy Allied Leisure, Ashted, Lavendon, Fitness First; Hold Harvey Nichols.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Markets focus on producer prices

THE British statistical week starts today with the publication of producer prices figures for September. These will be particularly closely watched because of last week's news of a disappointing rise in underlying inflation in September to 2.9 per cent from 2.8 per cent.

This sent gilt futures tumbling by around a full point as the markets assumed that there will be no further base rate cuts and perhaps more pressure for a rate rise in coming months.

Producer input prices are expected to have risen 0.4 per cent, according to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International. This would still leave input prices 2.5 per cent lower than a year ago compared with 2.2 per cent lower in August. Output prices are predicted to have risen by only a marginal 0.1 per cent, allowing the year-on-year rate of output price inflation to drop a little to 1.9 per cent from 2.0 per cent. Taking out food, drink and tobacco, output price inflation should dip to 0.9 per cent from 1.3 per cent.

On Wednesday, the September Public Sector Borrowing Requirement is published. The consensus forecast is for a PSBR of £2.5 billion compared with the requirement of £4.5 billion posted in August.

On the same day, the latest labour market statistics are published. September unemployment is expected to have dropped by some 18,000, a little more than the 15,600 decline recorded in August. Annual growth in average earnings is expected to have remained at 3.75 per cent in August. On Friday, a clutch of bank and building society lending figures are published for September.

The key American statistics this week include September consumer prices on Wednesday and industrial production for September on Thursday. The pointers for industrial production are mixed with national purchasing managers suggesting a slowdown in manufacturing but other figures showing the manufacturing work week at around the highest levels of the economic cycle.

On Sunday, the Japanese general election is held. John Sheppard, Chief Economist at Yamaichi Europe, noted that polls show a massive proportion of "don't knows", making the result unusually unpredictable.

JANET BUSH

SDX seeks £5m at float

By ROBERT MILLER

SDX Business Systems, the UK technology company that specialises in business telephone systems such as automatic call distribution and voice mail, is to seek a Stock Exchange listing this year valuing the group at around £50 million and raising some £5 million of new capital. The company, which numbers American Express, the

BBC, Lloyds TSB and the Prudential among clients using SDX-designed systems, made pre-tax profits of £2 million last year on turnover of £23.25 million. Kleinwort Benson Securities will sponsor and broker the share placing. SDX was founded in November 1991 as part of a management buyout of the business systems division from STC.

Threat to employee share plans

A new accounting standard is threatening employees' savings-related share option schemes, according to New Bridge Street Consultants, the incentives experts.

The Accounting Standards Board is to force companies to charge any discount on the shares placed in the scheme against their profits. Many companies offer discounts of up to 20 per cent on shares in the firm purchased by employees, but New Bridge Street is concerned that most will get rid of the discounts or withdraw the schemes.

Banking lure

A promise of free banking for start-up firms for up to 18 months is being offered by Midland Bank from today in a bid to woo small business customers. Small companies, whose key personnel will also need to have personal accounts with the bank, will pay interest on loans and overdrafts but no additional fees or charges provided the borrowing is within agreed limits.

Defence links

The British, French and German militaries are to co-operate on building a network of communications satellites, the German defence ministry has confirmed. The network should be up and running by the middle of the next decade and is expected to cost around £2 billion. The proposal, originally put forward by the French Government, is expected to mean hundreds of millions of pounds of work for British companies such as GEC and British Aerospace.

AIMing high

Jardinerie International, which specialises in internal landscaping for offices and airports, is to float on AIM with a value of more than £10 million. The group will raise £4.3 million, which it is using to buy two Tropical Plants Display and Office Landscaping, a move that will make it the second-largest player in the UK market, after Rentokil Initial.

Finns in ERM

Finland will join Europe's Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) today in a move widely hailed as a boost to the single European currency. The EU's monetary committee decided at the weekend to bring the Finnish markka in at a central rate of 3.04 to the German mark.

Euro Disney plans huge retail site at French theme park

By JON ASHWORTH

EURO DISNEY, the theme park operator, is planning to open a giant shopping complex on the doorstep of Disneyland Paris. The complex, which will include a factory shopping centre modelled on Bicester Village in Oxfordshire, is linked to proposals designed to boost yields at Marne la Vallée.

The centre will bear the mark of Value Retail, the UK company that developed Bicester Village, which has proved one of the most successful factory shopping outlets, with branded names like Polo Ralph Lauren, Benetton and Villoroy & Boch.

The proposals are part of Euro Disney's "Year 2000" project, aimed at complementing the theme park, hotels and conference facilities with a raft of retail and commercial developments. A kingpin is the proposed international commercial centre, built around a 75,000 sq ft mall, which will

include a hypermarket and retail gallery, and the factory shopping centre.

Euro Disney is planning to develop offices next to the mall. There are also plans for a housing development, financed through leveraged deals with third parties to avoid increasing group debt. Euro Disney is struggling to boost revenues at a time when interest payments to its banks — suspended at the time of the refinancing two years ago — are gradually being phased back in. Interest payments are set to increase sharply in the 1997 financial year.

Euro Disney's success in boosting visitor numbers and yields will be disclosed next month, when the group unveils its latest full set of financial results. In other developments, the Festival Disney strip at the entrance to the theme park, which is being renamed Disney Village, is being doubled in size. An

eight-screen multiplex cinema, including France's widest fixed screen, is due to open in March. A branch of Planet Hollywood has had a "soft" opening, and is building up to a star-studded official launch. Seasonal pricing, and new attractions such as Space Mountain, have helped to smooth out attendances. The strong franc has deterred in-park spending by visitors from the UK, who account for about 10 per cent of visits. However, the currency has had less impact on visitors from Germany and the Benelux countries, who each account for 18 per cent of total attendance.

Euro Disney reported a pre-tax profit of £114 million (Fr1.8 billion loss) in the year to September 30, 1995 — its first full-year profit since the park opened in April 1992. A year of fifth anniversary anniversary celebrations kicks off next month.



A shopper's paradise is planned for Disneyland Paris

Baker confident of avoiding SFA ban over Leeson

By ROBERT MILLER

RON BAKER, the former Barings executive charged with failing to exercise proper management controls over Nick Leeson, the rogue trader who broke the bank with debts of \$530 million, said yesterday that he was confident he would clear his name when his case comes before a tribunal later this week.

The Securities and Futures Authority, the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers, has proposed to ban Mr Baker from senior City registers for three years, and proposed that he should pay £10,000 towards the regulator's costs.

If the Australian-born Mr Baker, who was recruited to Barings from Bankers' Trust in April 1992 to head up the corporate fixed income department, loses his case and the tribunal upholds the SFA's disciplinary charges, then the former Barings executive could face having to pay thousands of pounds more in costs.

Mr Baker's legal team is headed by Charles Hollander, who faces the SFA's prosecu-

tors led by Presley Baxendale, QC, who assisted Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, in the arms-to-Iraq inquiry. The independent tribunal, chaired by Judge Colin Kolbert, is expected to announce its findings within four weeks.

Mr Baker has consistently maintained that he had no direct responsibility for any of Leeson's trading activities on the Far East money markets until January 1, 1995, just weeks before the UK's oldest merchant bank collapsed and was rescued by ING, the Dutch banking and insurance group.

The SFA still has proposed disciplinary proceedings outstanding against three other former Barings executives. Mary Walz, who was in charge of equity financial products and who is also using the bank for £500,000 in unpaid bonuses. James Bax, one of Leeson's immediate superiors in Singapore, and Ian Hopkins, former head of group Treasury and risk. The watchdog has pencilled in tribunal dates for all three.

Accountants brought to book

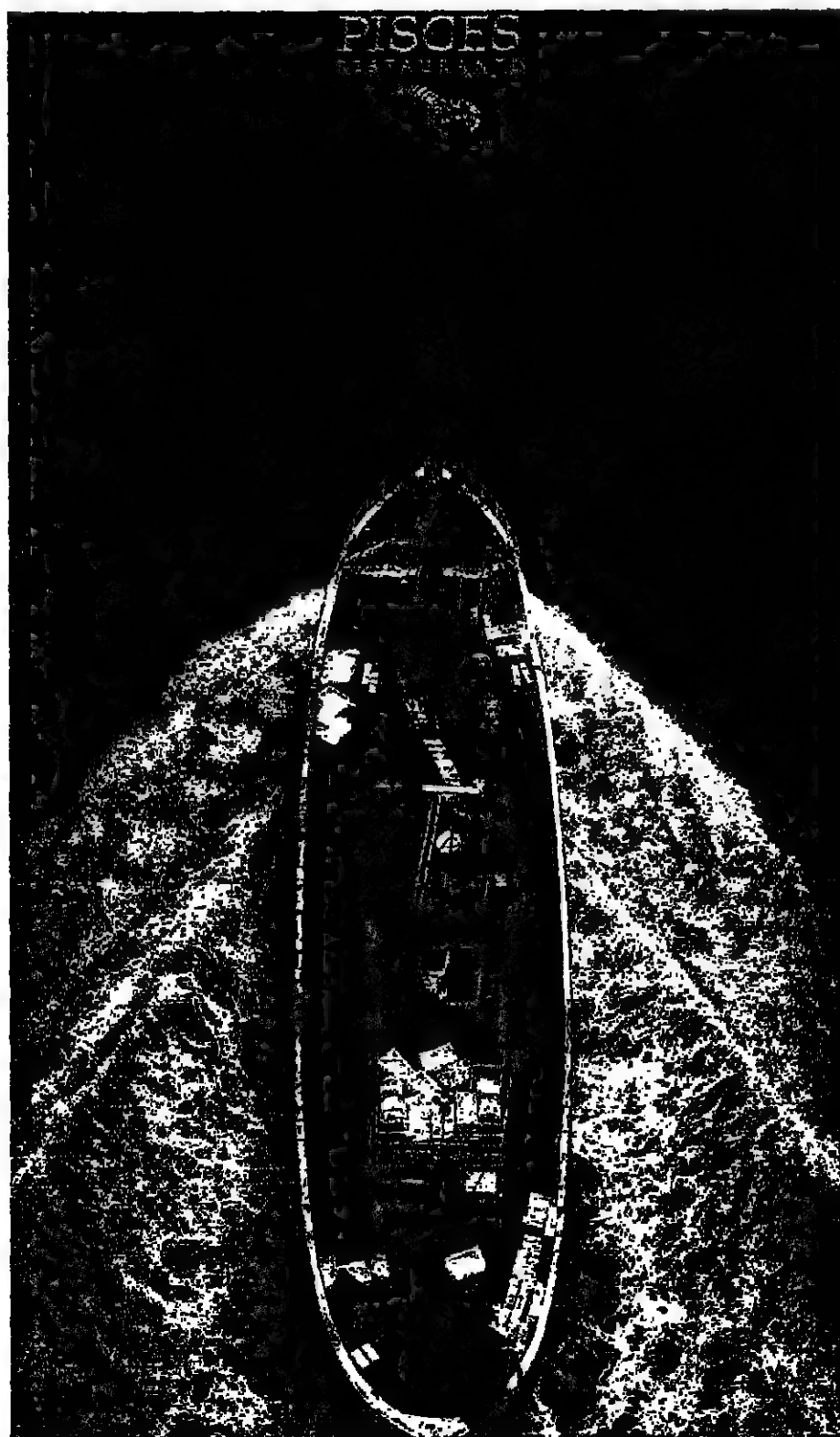
By JON ASHWORTH

UK accountants should follow the example of KPMG and open their books to scrutiny, a MORI poll of 75 of the UK's leading 300 companies has found. Banks, investment houses, and leading UK companies also favoured the appointment of independent auditors to the larger accountancy firms.

KPMG set the trend earlier in the year, when it became the first Big Six firm to publish a full set of report and accounts. The figures showed that Colin Sharman, senior partner, received remuneration of £438,000 in the year to the end of September 1995. He received an additional £125,000 in pension contributions. Grant Thornton has been appointed to audit KPMG's accounts.

More than 90 per cent of companies are in favour of auditors disclosing their own financial information. Twenty banks and 20 investment companies were also questioned in the survey, sponsored by KPMG. Some 65 per cent of respondents said they were in favour of incorporating a firm's audit practice as a method of liability protection. KPMG has ringfenced its audit arm in this way. Ernst & Young and Price Waterhouse, are among those to seek similar protection.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																				
AB InBev	14.10	+0.10	4.2	12.8	Carlsberg	12.50	+0.10	3.8	11.5	Heineken	11.80	+0.05	3.5	10.2	Guinness	10.20	+0.02	3.2	9.8	... (more companies) ...
BANKS																				
Barclays	12.80	+0.10	4.5	13.2	HSBC	11.50	+0.05	4.2	12.5	... (more companies) ...										
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST																				
Asahi	13.20	+0.10	4.8	14.5	... (more companies) ...															
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS																				
Unilever	14.50	+0.10	5.2	15.8	... (more companies) ...															
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES																				
Rolls Royce	15.80	+0.10	5.5	16.2	... (more companies) ...															
FOOD MANUFACTURERS																				
Unilever	14.50	+0.10	5.2	15.8	... (more companies) ...															
HEALTHCARE																				
Glaxo	16.20	+0.10	5.8	17.5	... (more companies) ...															
HOUSEHOLD GOODS																				
Unilever	14.50	+0.10	5.2	15.8	... (more companies) ...															
INSURANCE																				
Aviva	13.50	+0.10	4.5	14.2	... (more companies) ...															
INVESTMENT TRUSTS																				
Investment Trust	12.50	+0.10	4.0	13.2	... (more companies) ...															
LEISURE & HOTELS																				
Marriott	14.80	+0.10	5.0	15.5	... (more companies) ...															
MINING																				
AngloGold	15.20	+0.10	5.5	16.0	... (more companies) ...															
PROPERTY																				
Landsec	13.80	+0.10	4.8	14.5	... (more companies) ...															
RETAILERS, FOOD																				
Asda	12.20	+0.10	4.2	13.0	... (more companies) ...															
RETAILERS, GENERAL																				
Debenhams	11.50	+0.10	4.0	12.5	... (more companies) ...															
TELECOMMUNICATIONS																				
British Telecom	14.20	+0.10	5.0	15.0	... (more companies) ...															
TEXTILES & APPAREL																				
Next	12.80	+0.10	4.5	13.5	... (more companies) ...															
TRANSPORT																				
British Airways	13.50	+0.10	4.8	14.2	... (more companies) ...															
WATER																				
Thames Water	12.50	+0.10	4.2	13.0	... (more companies) ...															
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET																				
Greenland	11.80	+0.10	4.0	12.5	... (more companies) ...															



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Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BRITISH FUNDS																			
British Fund	12.50	+0.10	4.0	13.2	... (more companies) ...														
SHORTS (up to 5 years)																			
Shorts Fund	11.80	+0.10	3.8	12.5	... (more companies) ...														
LONGS (over 15 years)																			
Longs Fund	13.20	+0.10	4.2	14.5	... (more companies) ...														
UPDATED																			
Updated Fund	12.80	+0.10	4.5	13.2	... (more companies) ...														
INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation)																			
Index-Linked	11.50	+0.10	4.0	12.5	... (more companies) ...														



IWC

For an illustrated catalogue and a list of nationwide watchmakers please telephone 1-800-853-4363 or fax 0171 446 4366.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNLISTED

INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation at)

MEDiums (5 to 15 years)

MEDiums (5 to 15 years)

MEDiums (5 to 15 years)

MEDiums (5 to 15 years)

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Imro action over pensions mis-selling

By ROBERT MILLER

HUNDREDS of thousands of investors who were misled by pension providers are now being offered compensation. The City watchdog, ordered a review in 1993 of more than one million personal pension plans sold since 1988. The Imro action could speed up the process that is ultimately expected to leave the pensions industry nursing a compensation and costs bill of up to £4 billion.

There is, however, growing concern among consumer protection bodies over the two-tier review system being operated by City watchdogs. At one end there is the full-scale "pro-active" SIB review that automatically ensures all cases involving pension transfers where people, such as nurses, miners, fire-fighters and police officers, were persuaded to leave their employers' scheme with promises of high returns.

At the other end are the hundreds of thousands of investors, many of whom were wrongly advised to buy personal pension plans, who are unaware that they are the victims of bad advice because the documentation they were given by life offices and banks is flawed.

Many pension companies that mis-sold plans also appear to have failed to highlight the risks of leaving a secure scheme — many of which offered guaranteed perks and minimum pension payments — for the uncertainties of a private plan.



Thorpe: to hand out fines

Lang under fire over delay on BA

By JON ASHWORTH

IAN LANG, the President of the Board of Trade, is under increasing pressure to rule on whether the proposed link-up between British Airways and American Airlines should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC).

Mr Lang received a report on the proposed alliance from the Office of Fair Trading more than a week ago. However, airline insiders have been told no decision is imminent.

One view is that Mr Lang will allow the controversial alliance to proceed, on condition that BA and American surrender a proportion of their valuable Heathrow slots.

United Airlines last week urged the US Department of Transportation to formally investigate the proposed BA-American tie-up.

Loft founder backs £100m bridge plan

By JASON NISSE

MANHATTAN Loft Corporation, the group behind the Bankside redevelopment near the new Tate Gallery in London, is backing the £100 million scheme to build a footbridge across the Thames.

The privately funded scheme, which intends to build an inhabited bridge from Temple Underground station to the South Bank, has been proposed by the architect Zaha Hadid. The proposal is for the bridge to be built as part of the Millennium celebrations.

Ms Hadid's plans are for the bridge to incorporate flats and a luxury hotel as well as a public walkway across the Thames. Harry Handelmann, founder of Manhattan Loft, is keen on the project and wants to develop the flats.

Gilts vulnerable to political risk

The gilt market has appeared to be an attractive option for overseas investors. They see a country where there has been a dramatic improvement in the inflation background, where the Labour Party (likely to form the next Government) appears to have become more conservative than the Conservatives and where the UK has a good chance of meeting the Maastricht criteria. Hence gilts have been carried along in the wake of the spread narrowing of high-yielding European bond markets such as Italy and Spain, where EMU prospects have improved.

Is this spread narrowing for gilts justified? We think not. The only part of the bullish story that investors can be reasonably confident about is that the UK's inflation has been cured. But even these are at risk from strengthening activity and a tightening labour market. Contrast this with the likes of Spain and Italy, where the background is more bond-friendly. These countries have weak activity, falling inflation and clear progress on deficit reduction.

The current 155bp yield spread to Germany is a risk premium that reflects two factors: political risk from a change of government and the UK's EMU prospects. How much risk premium is due to each factor is difficult to assess but a comparison with the Danish bond market may provide a guide. Denmark has a similar stance on EMU, which means that it may have a similar EMU risk premium. The Danish spread against bonds is about 80bp and probably reflects a pure EMU premium. By implication, gilts

Gilts vulnerable to political risk

GILT-EDGED

75bp spread to Denmark may represent the risk premium associated with expectations of a Labour government.

But it is possible that the EMU risk premium in gilts is larger than suggested above, which means that the implied political risk premium is smaller, because the perception that the Labour Party is relatively pro-EMU may be too optimistic. The Labour Party conference revealed splits on the European issue. Moreover, both parties have indicated that they will take the EMU question to the electorate and, with the opinion polls indicating a clear "No" vote, this suggests little chance

of the UK joining EMU for the foreseeable future.

The immediate issue, however, is whether the uncertainty surrounding a future Labour government has been discounted. In theory, the large gap in popularity between Labour and the Tories suggests that yields should have fully incorporated political risk. In practice, however, they probably have not. The last election may be a guide. In the few weeks before the 1992 election, there was a 70bp rise in long-dated yields, which left the spread to bonds also 70bp higher, at about 220bp. A few days after the election, the spread dropped back again.

The reason for this late sell-off was that domestic investors (inhibited by quarterly performance assessments) were unwilling to reduce their weightings until late in the day. This pattern seems to be repeating itself, with domestic investors currently reluctant buyers of gilt. The prospect of an election-hour drop in gilts, when domestic investors finally exercise their (previously only voiced) concerns is increasing.

The reason for this is that, as the election draws closer, the Labour Party's so far deliberately bland policy statements are likely to be analysed more closely. The most important issue is the conspicuous lack of any formal commitment to stick to the Maastricht budget deficit criterion. "Brown's rules" have been cited as evidence of a more prudent approach, but it is possible to meet these and breach 3 per cent of GDP on the budget deficit. If the Tories have failed to lower spending as a proportion of GDP since they came to power in 1979, the fiscal risks are probably greater under Labour.

Overseas investors could take gilt spreads lower in the near term on the back of further spread narrowing in Italy and Spain. But more sceptical domestic investors will have their day as the election approaches, when the current optimism over EMU and policy risks come more into question. At that time, we think the ten-year gilt/bund spread will rise towards 200bp.

NIGEL RICHARDSON
JOHN SHEPPERD
Yamaichi International
(Europe) Ltd

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET									
1996	Low	Mid cap	Price	Why	Yld	1996	Low	Mid cap	Price
High	Low	(million)	per share	+/-	%	High	Low	(million)	per share
150.2	132	15.00	150.2	150.2	4.6	10.0	280	75	5.89
135.5	109	19.20	135.5	135.5	4.6	10.0	150	13	3.94
113.5	109	17.30	113.5	113.5	4.6	10.0	145	18	3.76
87.8	18	4.65	87.8	87.8	4.6	10.0	343	233	7.89
15	14	14.35	15	15	4.6	10.0	45	29	9.05
161	14	20.30	161	161	4.6	10.0	145	18	3.76
210	123	25.50	210	210	4.6	10.0	374	14	12.50
204	7	14.45	204	204	4.6	10.0	145	18	3.76
85	66	31.80	85	85	4.6	10.0	23	16	6.10
224	13	8.80	224	224	4.6	10.0	135	15	17.80
58	32	6.45	58	58	4.6	10.0	135	15	17.80
24	7	5.72	24	24	4.6	10.0	109	8	81.40
480	380	45.80	480	480	4.6	10.0	23	16	6.10
985	885	84.40	985	985	4.6	10.0	135	15	17.80
121	48	63.80	121	121	4.6	10.0	22	6	2.85
9	7	1.66	9	9	4.6	10.0	154	13	1.83
141	32	28.40	141	141	4.6	10.0	135	15	17.80
64	55	1.16	64	64	4.6	10.0	229	109	26.50
149	123	44.60	149	149	4.6	10.0	68	53	2.57
112	61	11.80	112	112	4.6	10.0	275	155	8.27
46	37	3.53	46	46	4.6	10.0	255	140	10.70
150	140	1.01	150	150	4.6	10.0	65	50	1.27
70	70	0.34	70	70	4.6	10.0	136	118	149.80
70	70	0.34	70	70	4.6	10.0	80	65	0.82
107	89	3.74	107	107	4.6	10.0	119	111	7.91
520	240	62.40	520	520	4.6	10.0	297	140	22.70
134	116	13.90	134	134	4.6	10.0	280	130	2.78
140	116	0.12	140	140	4.6	10.0	119	111	7.91
140	116	1.12	140	140	4.6	10.0	77	116	82
213	95	4.43	213	213	4.6	10.0	134	105	21.20
75	55	8.00	75	75	4.6	10.0	88	55	9.82
95	88	13.80	95	95	4.6	10.0	88	55	9.82
43	27	14.40	43	43	4.6	10.0	72	68	17.70
108	91	9.38	108	108	4.6	10.0	171	171	17.17
72	50	2.73	72	72	4.6	10.0	682	583	25.00
32	41	2.23	32	32	4.6	10.0	252	148	32.40
21	16	5.96	21	21	4.6	10.0	103	83	3.44
525	350	53.40	525	525	4.6	10.0	320	280	21.80
123	109	16.00	123	123	4.6	10.0	74	68	3.52
86	49	5.82	86	86	4.6	10.0	3	2	0.36
100	53	116.10	100	100	4.6	10.0	125	82	40.20
210	120	10.80	210	210	4.6	10.0	120	127	42.70
165	173	19.80	165	165	4.6	10.0	180	137	27.10
155	131	24.70	155	155	4.6	10.0	322	210	19.60
110	110	0.99	110	110	4.6	10.0	3750	2550	80.70
36	28	12.00	36	36	4.6	10.0	215	225	48.50
510	500	12.00	510	510	4.6	10.0	15	12	0.82
19	15	8.94	19	19	4.6	10.0	6	2	0.19
100	85	0.24	100	100	4.6	10.0	16	13	4.19
100	85	0.24	100	100	4.6	10.0	106	106	0.86
125	115	0.84	125	125	4.6	10.0	70	55	1.83
225	215	0.17	225	225	4.6	10.0	346	192	39.30
44	37	8.14	44	44	4.6	10.0	4	3	0.92
127	68	11.60	127	127	4.6	10.0	1	0	0.30
97	68	3.32	97	97	4.6	10.0	25	12	0.02
109	44	15.00	109	109	4.6	10.0	136	70	8.77
346	190	4.22	346	346	4.6	10.0	125	107	2.51
111	82	14.00	111	111	4.6	10.0	141	109	4.41
495	152	30.90	495	495	4.6	10.0	117	82	32.90
36	28	1.42	36	36	4.6	10.0	104	79	1.03
75	50	3.86	75	75	4.6	10.0	66	64	0.94
1708	106	63.40	1708	1708	4.6	10.0	38	22	38.40
17	11	6.03	17	17	4.6	10.0	55	21	14.00
4	3	5.17	4	4	4.6	10.0	43	29	0.41
375	305	37.50	375	375	4.6	10.0	22	16	4.50
111	114	14.00	111	111	4.6	10.0	245	156	18.80
87	60	14.00	87	87	4.6	10.0	200	67	7.80
4	2	2.69	4	4	4.6	10.0	202	147	29.50
137	38	8.63	137	137	4.6	10.0	89	49	13.60
246	148	41.60	246	246	4.6	10.0	19	17	1.32
200	60	40.10	200	200	4.6	10.0	340	285	21.50
116	81	16.70	116	116	4.6	10.0	210	175	14.80
316	315	11.70	316	316	4.6	10.0	70	53	1.25
129	120	10.00	129	129	4.6	10.0	380	330	8.47
475	325	10.40	475	475	4.6	10.0	470	200	9.91
53	41	2.39	53	53	4.6	10.0	169	118	48.80
130	100	41.40	130	130	4.6	10.0	101	85	1.07
77	57	3.86	77	77	4.6	10.0	75	63	1.46

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia	2.98	Barclays	1.92	New Zealand	2.42	Bank	2.30
Canada	2.50	HSBC	1.80	Switzerland	2.40	Bank	2.30
France	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30
Germany	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30
Japan	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30
Spain	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30
Sweden	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30
Switzerland	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30
USA	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30
USA	2.50	Paribas	1.80	USA	2.40	Bank	2.30

Rates for small denomination notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply for travellers' cheques. Rates are as at the close of trading on Friday.

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

AUTOFRETTAGE
(c) The process of strengthening a tube, especially the barrel of a gun, by applying internal pressure in order to raise the limit of strain. From the French word meaning "self-hooping". "Autofrettage is the art of inducing elasticity in a tube at pressures which otherwise cause overstrain."

NEF
(a) A table decoration shaped like a ship. From the Latin *navis*, *navem* a ship. "Every officer of the household making reverential obeisance as they passed to the Nef—the Nef being a piece of gilt plate in the shape of the hull of a ship in which the napkins for the king's table are kept."

AUTUR
(c) Fuel for jet aircraft. "We could tell they were the usual pathetic, inadequate Dogs of War. They were carrying not just practical knives and handguns, but also drums of Autur in the fantastic hope that they might find an unattended airliner on the tarmac at Kinshasa to hijack."

SPATCHCOCK
(b) A fowl split open and grilled after being killed, plucked, and dressed in a summary fashion. Originally in Irish use, later chiefly Anglo-Indian. *Grose, Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*. "Spatchcock is an abbreviation of 'spatchcock', an Irish dish upon any sudden occasion. It is a hen just killed from the roost, or yard, and immediately skinned, split, and broiled."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Rd5! ex5 2 Rd! Qxd3 3 Rd8 checkmate.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5757 (+0.0124)
German mark 2.4124 (+0.0210)
Exchange index 87.8 (+0.7)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2842.7 (-15.1)
FT-SE 100 4028.1 (+3.3)
New York Dow Jones 5963.38 (-23.48)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 20968.16 (-179.87)

MORTGAGE RATE OFFER

4.99

Truly an unlovely way to spend an evening

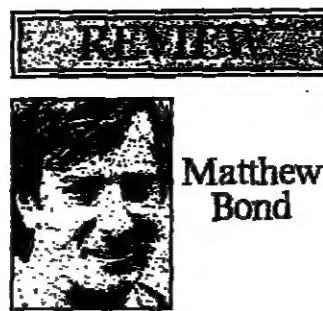
For me, there has never been any doubt about the most depressing words in television. "Noel Edmonds" or "Jilly Goolden" come close, but for sheer spirit-sapping gloom you can't beat the nine words that heralded the start of *Deadly Voyage* (BBC2, Saturday). The following film is based on a true story.

A miserable hour-and-a-half later, however, with the horror of all we had seen still fresh, I discovered that even they can be surpassed. As the credits rolled, in place of the normal "any resemblance... is purely coincidental" stuff that comes up while you are still wondering what a "best boy" is, this appeared: "Some dialogue, events and characters have been created for dramatic purposes." Well, which? I would like to know. You were left with the impression that by itself the murder at sea of eight West African stowaways was not quite interesting enough.

I did not enjoy *Deadly Voyage* but I will not be alone in that — it was not a film to be enjoyed. The fact that one man, Kingsley Ofori (Omar Epps), survived the maritime massacre, thereby living to have the tale told and embellished by others, hardly rated as the happiest ending to a Saturday night.

Nor could I admire it, as I am sure others will. For a film based heavily on recent and real murders, it was just too sick, too exciting to be palatable. Race was one of the themes that it purported to explore, but had a similar number of Britons or Americans been machine-gunned and then tossed over the side of a rusting Ukrainian cargo ship you do wonder whether it would have been made at all.

But at least, if I couldn't admire the whole, I could at least appreciate some of the parts. Epps was persuasively engaging as the naïve Ofori, while Sean Pertwee was impressively menacing as the am-



Matthew Bond

as much vodka as this captain you'd probably have trouble matching lips to words, too.

The finale — Ofori's escape from the ship at Le Havre — was undeniably as tense and exciting as a *Die Hard* movie. But by that time, if he had slid down the anchor chain shouting "Yippee! Yee aye" — well, I wouldn't have been surprised. Depressed certainly, but not surprised.

No mistaking *Pie in the Sky* (BBC1) for real life, which is one of the reasons it has so quickly established itself as an enjoyably undemanding cornerstone of Sunday night. That said, at times the current series has been almost too undemanding, consistently under-estimating the engaging bunch of secondary characters now assembled around the redoubtable Richard Griffiths. Last night's plot may have lived on bread alone, but we really can't expect Nicola (Samantha Janus) and Gary (Nicholas Lamont) to get through an entire series on little more than knowing looks. What is that they know, anyway?

Perhaps they know why it is that so many of Margaret Crabbe's (Maggie Stead) clients end up being investigated by her husband, Henry (Griffiths). Last night it was The Happy Ploughman, purveyor of puff pastry and processed pies to all and sundry,

including — briefly — the canteen at Barstock police station. "Fish-cake in the hole?" inquired the head ploughman, Freddy Fisher (Malcolm Sinclair) demurred — the deserted canteen told him that another of his career-enhancing projects had just come to an ineffectual end.

Somehow an armed robber, buried gold, bullion and Joy (Susannah Doyle) from *Drop the Dead Donkey* all came into it, but don't ask me how. Perhaps Nicola and Gary know.

Last night was also notable for that television rarity, a documentary without a sting in the tale. For, after 45 minutes of frightening us with tales of ferocious African honey bees and their apian advance across the Americas, the makers of *Equinox: Killer Bees* (Channel 4) revealed that their subject were barely killers at all. Two to three deaths

each year apparently, top whack. Their advice if you find yourself on the sharp, poisonous end of an African bee is: run away. The African bees are the bees for honey production (since their introduction in 1956 Brazil has gone from being 27th biggest honey producer in the world to fourth), and stinging (600 deaths in 40 years) but when it comes to flying they are no great shakes. I for one, however, will not be travelling to Apache Junction, Arizona (currently Killer Bee City) to find out.

The tale of the African bee's arrival in Brazil is an old one but Martin Gors, the director, retold it well, helped by illuminating access to the man who brought them from South Africa, the geneticist Warwick Kerr. Strangely, of the relief bee-keeper who accidentally released the African queens 40 years ago, there was little mention. Perhaps he didn't run fast enough.

BBC1

- 6.00 am Business Breakfast (96288)
7.00 Breakfast News (27559) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (547172)
9.20 Style Challenge (2379207) 9.45 Killy (1103928) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (95004)
11.00 News, Business, News and weather (Celestial) (578307)
11.05 **CHOICE** The Really Useful Show (s) (795608)
11.45 **NEW** Smilie's People. New series, presented by Carol Smilie (s) (7162795)
12.00 News (Celestial) (7322998)
12.05pm Quirky (970998)
12.50 **NEW** The Weather Show. The BBC weather team look at how the weather affects our lives (s) (8584627)
1.00 News and weather (Celestial) (20646)
1.30 Regional News (5722611)
1.40 Neighbours (Celestial) (s) (4285733)
2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (848) 2.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? (s) (424) 3.00 Incongruity (s) (8358)
3.30 Richard Scarry (s) (722424) 3.55 Bodger and Badger (s) (9532849) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (s) (699511) 4.35 Record Breakers (s) (3382824) 5.00 Newsround (2729207) 5.10 Blue Peter (Celestial) (s) (6398511)
5.35 Neighbours (s) (783424)
6.00 News and weather (153)
6.30 Regional News (733)
7.00 Telly Addicts. Noel Edmonds hosts the television quiz (Celestial) (s) (3527)
7.30 Mastermind — The Final from the British Old Vic (Celestial) (s) (917)
8.00 Eastenders. Carol confides in David, while Kathy shocks Pat and Ray with unexpected news (Celestial) (s) (9085)
8.30 **CHOICE** Vets' School. The first of a new series which takes a behind-the-scenes look at the tortures of a group of veterinary science undergraduates in the fifth and final year at Bristol University (Celestial) (s) (1620)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News and weather (2530)
9.30 Panorama. Vivian White investigates the personal pensions industry (Celestial) (86733)
10.15 Chicago Hope: Wild Cards. Walters is worried that the hospital may be open to libel and slander claims, when Gieger advises a patient that her new artificial heart valve may be defective (Celestial) (s) (289714)
11.00 Film *See No Evil, Hear No Evil*. A look at the latest film releases, including *Tin Cup* with Kevin Costner and *Rainy Days* with Danny Glover, featuring the voice of Sean Connery, and *Breaking the Waves*, starring Emily Watson (Celestial) (s) (4375)
11.30 **FILM** Cool World (1992). An adult cartoon that is centred on a cartoonist who is sucked into an animated world inhabited by repulsive characters, including the manipulative *Hulk World*, voiced by Kim Cattrall. Other featured voices include Gabriel Byrne and Brad Pitt. Directed by Ralph Bakshi (Celestial) (s) (31191)
1.05am Weather (2834196)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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BBC2


- 6.00 am Open University: Siena Cathedral (6363801) 6.50 Art in 14th-Century Italy (960288)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (6140356)
7.30 **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (s) (4517337)
7.55 **Blue Peter** (s) (Celestial) (s) (6976714) 8.20 **Kino** Greenpeace (s) (7508882) 8.25 **Tales of Aesop** (s) (2247882) 8.35 **Lassie** (s) (6032288)
9.00 **Daytime on Two: TV6** (s) (98462) 9.30 **Cosmo and Dibs** (s) (1709066) 9.40 **Megamaths** (s) (5910578) 10.00 **Playdays** (71682) 10.30 **Hatch Patrol** (s) (639289) 11.10 **2p Zog** (s) (9521004) 12.00 **GNVQ — The Great Vespene Quest** (s) (85998)
12.30pm Working Lunch (13268) 1.00 **History File** (17243801) 1.20 **Spanish Globo** (8677028) 1.25 **Landmarks** (1723906) 1.45 **Storytime** (5742588)
2.00 **Greenpeace** (s) (s) (6171098) 2.05 **Tales of Aesop** (s) (1712626)
2.10 **The Champions** (s) (Celestial) (4910849) 3.00 **News** (Celestial) and weather (5359882) 3.05 **Japanese Grand Prix** (s) (4603646) 3.55 **News** (Celestial) and weather (8219530)
4.00 **Today's the Day** (s) (648) 4.30 **Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (530) 5.00 **Easters** (s) (1443) 5.30 **Going, Going, Gone** (s) (868)
6.00 **The Munsters** (s) (Celestial) (785442) 6.25 **UFO Sci-Fi drama** (Celestial) (s) (789207)

11-year-old Kerry Dunn (7.15pm)
7.15 **As Seen on TV**. The second showcase screening of films taken from the children's magazine series. *Forgetting to Remember* by 12-year-old Daniel Gardner. *Life Without a Dad* by 11-year-old Kerry Dunn; and *Studs* by eight-year-old Sophie Hennessey (s) (353288)
7.30 **Top Gear Motorsport**. Mark James reports on Tommi Mäkinen's battle to retain his world championship lead in the 1,000 Lanes Rally in Finland. Needell comments against some TVR Tourer enthusiasts at Croft and Bob Costanduros charts the progress of Peter Dumbrek in the Formula Vauxhall single-seater series (Celestial) (s) (214337)
8.05 **People's Century**. The rise of the Korean and Japanese economies (s) (Celestial) (s) (51578)
9.00 **Sykes** (s) (Celestial) (6612)
9.30 **The Comic Strip Presents...** Another chance to see episodes from the spoof series (s) (Celestial) (25733)
10.00 **Game On**. Wendy decides to go back to college (Celestial) (s) (96627)
10.30 **Newsnight** (Celestial) (57153)
11.15 **Over the Edge**. Attempts to disability (Celestial) (s) (823356)
11.50 **Holiday Outings** (s) (104443)
12.00 **The Midnight Hour with Sir Bernard Ingham** (s) (71844)
12.30am-6.00 **The Learning Zone**

CHOICE

- The Really Useful Show**
BBC1, 11.05am
Daytime television gets its own consumer programme, hosted by Chris Choi from *Watchdog*. Although it is on air five times a week, the show should not find itself short of material. The invitation to viewers to call in with complaints should guarantee a steady flow. The series aims to offer two types of help, one directed at getting better deals and the other at avoiding bad ones. Products will be tested, sources exposed and advertising scrutinised for dubious claims. The emphasis is on entertainment, though that is what consumer shows are unless you happen to be a victim. Choi is joined on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays by Cheryl Baker and on Wednesdays and Thursdays by Kaye Adams, a Scottish broadcaster who hosted and produced the award-winning discussion series, *Scottish Women*.
- Short Stories: My Little Piranha Fish**
Channel 4, 8.00pm
It is the early 1990s and Gillian Puttock, a mother of three from Buckinghamshire, declares that she is going up in the world. Her husband, John, is a successful businessman, she moves her own recruitment consultancy into shining new offices and lines up her dream house. Then it all unravels. The husband who calls her his little piranha fish is made redundant, the business collapses and when Gillian reads that the actor George Peppard has died her reaction, only partly in jest, is "lucky sod". Kim Hopkins's film brilliantly captures the pretensions of a social climber who stumbled and fell, greatly helped, it must be said, by an unabashed leading lady. Not many people would want to admit that they spent money on a nose job rather than a new cooker, but Gillian almost boasts about it.
- Vets' School**
BBC1, 8.30pm
The latest project to combine those surefire television ingredients, animals and medicine, follows student vets through their final year at Bristol University. The series promises to score on both the human and non-human fronts, as the plight of sick animals competes with parallel stories of rookie vets trying to survive an ultra-demanding course. *Vets' School* is also canny enough to leave cliff-hangers. If you want to know the fate of Heidi, the retriever which has been driven 85 miles with a mysterious ailment, you will have to wait. Another running storyline concerns student Trude from Norway, whose engaging personality may not be enough to keep her on the course. Her academic knowledge is assessed as "appalling" and in trying to inject a cat she pushes the needle through the neck and out the other side.
- Cutting Edge: Family Feuds**
Channel 4, 9.00pm
The message of this horribly watchable and deeply sad documentary is that there is nothing so bitter as a dispute between people of the same flesh and blood. Jeannette and Donna may be sisters but there is no love lost between them. Jeannette married a policeman and the rest of the family are no friends of the police. So Jeannette has had to suffer malicious phone calls almost round the clock and all sorts of unwanted deliveries, from slaps to take-away meals. Jean and Beryl are no more sisters who fell out, when Jean was blamed for bringing evil spirits into Beryl's house. This raw anthology of family discord also features a father and son who wish each other dead, and seem to mean it, and follows a trivial row over a damaged car which ends in a violent fight between the two. The series ends in prison. Peter Waymark

HITV

- 6.00am GMTV (7476733)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (2354998)
9.55 Regional News (6134882)
10.00 The Time... The Place (75608)
10.30 This Morning (27451646)
12.20pm Regional News (7311882)
12.30 News and weather (Telecast) (3033424)
12.55 Look and Cook (s) (3081443) 1.25 **Coronation Street** (s) (Telecast) (s) (6008820) 2.00 **Home and Away** (Telecast) (s) (7265801) 2.25 **Outlaw** (s) (7265808) 2.50 **Garden Calendar** (Telecast) (5767172)
3.20 **News** (Telecast) (536172) 3.30 **Regional News** (5365443)
3.35 **Totals TV** (517530) 3.40 **The Slow Norris** (s) (6944559) 3.50 **Whores, Witches and Glants** (9528548) 4.05 **Sooty and Co** (693714) 4.25 **Sooty** (s) (912462) 4.50 **How 2** (7640714)
5.10 **Bruce's Price is Right** (s) (817928)
5.40 **News and weather** (Telecast) (232378)
6.00 **Home and Away** (s) (Telecast) (782626)
6.25 **HITV News** (Telecast) (273035)
7.00 **The List** (8733)
7.30 **Coronation Street**. Kelly casts a disapproving eye over the latest women in Karl's life (Telecast) (135)
8.00 **World in Action**. Examining the growing problem of child prostitution (Telecast) (s) (4153)
8.30 **The Upper Hand**. Charlie's expecting a baby (Telecast) (s) (3289)

Owen Teale as Dan (8.00pm)
9.00 **Wilderness**. (3/3) Jane Garth tells Alice that her wolf should be with others of its kind and suggests a safe haven in Scotland (Telecast) (s) (2269)
10.00 **News and weather** (Telecast) (73153)
10.30 **Regional News** (Telecast) (531135)
10.40 **FILM: Terror on Track Nine** (1992) with Richard Gere, Joan Van Ark and Cliff Gorman. After killing his victim, a serial killer then sets about beautifying the bodies. Sparring performances, devious twists and an unpredictable ending make this edge-of-the-seat stuff. Directed by Robert Iscove (Telecast) (s) (25403733)
12.20 am **Buried on the Box** (s) (44202) 1.00 **Customs Classified** (s) (6778047) 1.50 **James and Jerry** (s) (2264055) 2.10 **TV Sport Classics** (9411863)
2.40 **FILM: South Riding** (1937), b/w starring Edna Best, Ralph Richardson and Edmund Grogan. A nostalgic look at life in Yorkshire during the Depression. Adapted from Winifred Holtby's best-selling novel. Directed by Victor Saville (9229975)
4.10 **Coast** (s) (79724115) 4.35 **The Time... The Place** (s) (s) (50822763)
5.00 **The Entertainers** (81318)
5.30 **News** (76399)

HITV WALES

- As HITV WEST except:
12.55pm-1.25 **Our House** (3081443)
2.00-2.30 **Look and Cook** (8167172)
6.25 **Wales Tonight** (273085)
7.00-7.30 **House to House** (8733)


As HITV WEST except:
12.25-12.30 **Illustrations** (732801)
12.55 **Coronation Street** (3061443)
1.25-1.55 **Quilts** (49034153)
1.55 **Home and Away** (14611795)
2.25 **The Body — A User's Guide** (2757288)
2.55-3.20 **A Country Practice** (2021286)
5.10-5.40 **Home and Away** (8179288)
6.00 **Westcountry Live** (18714)
7.00-7.30 **Bruce's Price is Right** (8733)

As HITV WEST except:
12.55 **Home and Away** (3061443)
1.25 **Quilts** (49034153)
1.55 **A Country Practice** (4426808)
2.20 **Blue Heelers** (4987511)
5.10-5.40 **Shortland Street** (8179288)
6.25 **Central News and Weather** (273085)
7.00-7.30 **Bruce's Price is Right** (8733)
12.30am **Football Extra** (105848)
1.15 **The Crime Hour** (324283)
2.15 **James and Jerry** (1873221)
2.40 **Film: Mark of the Phoenix** (7925370)
3.45 **Nite Bites** (52461234)
4.00 **Jobfinder** (834195)
5.20 **Asian Eye** (5381370)

As HITV WEST except:
12.55pm **Quilts** (3061443)
1.25 **Home and Away** (49034153)
1.55 **A Country Practice** (14611795)
2.25-3.20 **Blue Heelers** (4988882)
5.10 **Home and Away** (8179288)
6.00 **Meridian Tonight** (18714)
7.00-7.30 **Bruce's Price is Right** (8733)
10.45 **The Pier** (88172)
11.15 **Max Monroe: Loose Cannon** (990801)
12.15am **Sound Bites** (5329331)
5.00 **FreeScreen** (81318)

Starts: 6.25 **Hammerman** (9987191)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (10269)
9.00 **Here's One I Made Earlier** (83530)
9.30 **Yellowjackets** (808801)
12.00pm **Right to Reply** (70088)
12.30 **Backstage** (21527)
1.00 **Slot Meltdown** (13386)
1.30 **Film: The Kentuckian** (15004)
2.30 **The Living Sea** (207)
4.00 **Fifteen-to-One** (714)
4.30 **London Doomsday** (988)
5.00 **5 Pumps** (5511)
5.30 **Countdown: The Search for the Supreme Champion** (578)
6.05 **Heno** (80375)
6.35 **Jagoff** (94714)
7.00 **Pobol Y Cwm** (157397)
7.30 **Two Stars** (79428)
8.00 **Erwinn Tied** (2795)
8.30 **Newyddion** (4530)
9.00 **Fraser** (5240)
9.30 **Phenias** (11801)
10.00 **Sgorio** (3098)
11.00 **American Football** (88795)
11.30 **Football: Footballers' Stories** (3779318)
1.05 **The Lovers** (8101370)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35am **Hammerman** (s) (9987191)
7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (10269)
9.00 **Here's One I Made Earlier** (s) (83530)
9.30 **Schools: Geography Junction 9.45 Book Box** 10.00 **Space Two Science** 10.15 **Learn Sign Language** 10.20 **Place and People** 10.40 **The English Language** 11.05 **Science** 11.15 **Science** 11.15 **The Mix** 11.30 **Rela-Tat-Tat** 11.45 **Junior Technology** (86801)
12.00 **Right to Reply** (s) (70088) 12.30pm **Backstage** (Telecast) (s) (21527) 1.00 **Sesame Street** (28820)
2.00 **FILM: All Through the Night** (b/w, 1942) with Humphrey Bogart and Conrad Veidt. Comedy thriller with Bogart as a Broadway gambler and racketeer who falls in love with a girl who is a spy. Directed by Vincent Sherman (Telecast) (2882)
4.00 **Fifteen to One** (Telecast) (s) (714) 4.30 **Countdown** (Telecast) (s) (988) 5.00 **Montel Williams Show** (Telecast) (s) (2854191)
5.45 **Traveling Treks**. The first of two programmes on North Korea (s) (Telecast) (s) (509462)
6.00 **The Coby Shook**. Sandra and Elvin shock their parents when they announce they are going to open a camping shop in Brooklyn (s) (Telecast) (191)
6.30 **Hollyoaks**. Does Max need a hangover cure? (Telecast) (s) (443)
7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Celestial) (462445)
7.55 **NEW** **The Slot**. Viewers at their opinions (315288)

Gillian Puttock (8.00pm)
8.00 **Short Stories: My Little Piranha Fish** (Telecast) (2795)
8.30 **Let Call for the Comrades**. The threat of extinction for the comrade, a small weeding bird, after changes in methods of harvesting (s) (Telecast) (s) (455)
9.00 **Cutting Edge: Family Feuds** (Telecast) (s) (3511)
10.00 **Homicide — Life on the Street**. Full Moon. Lewis and Kellerman are investigating the death of a transient black. He has no identification except for a tattoo on his chest. With Clark Johnson and Reed Diamond (Telecast) (s) (3598)
11.00 **The American Football**. Big Match. Presented by Gary Ingham (88795)
12.00am **Transworld Sport** (s) (790775)
1.20 **Let the Blood Run Free**. Pam gets custody of Julio as a social worker named Penelope Potterwell takes over the case (885255)
1.50 **FILM: The Subject Was Roses** (1985) with Jack Albertson and Martin Sheen. A Second World War veteran returns home to discover that his parents are suffering mental difficulties. Directed by Liu Guehard (465895) Ends at 3.50
4.00 **Schools**. Living with Technology (8214359) Ends at 5.15

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

- SKY 1**
7.00am **Unlucky** (8375) 8.00 **Press Your Luck** (852429) 8.30 **Jeopardy!** (201464)
9.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show** (1442649)
10.00 **Real TV** (235350) 11.30 **Just Say Yes** (8401615) 12.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (5424) 1.00 **The New Adventures of Superman** (85707) 2.00 **L.A.P.D.** (6163) 3.00 **M.A.S.H.** (2207) 4.00 **Seinfeld** (6153) 5.00 **Police Files** (85707) 6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation** (82894) 7.00 **The New Adventures of Superman** (43511) 8.00 **Midnight Caller** (23318) 9.00 **L.A.P.D.** (86020) 1.00 **Real TV** (85488) 2.00 **14 Mile Long Day** (28311)

SKY 2
7.00pm **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine** (1441919) 8.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 9.00 **Unlucky** (8375) 10.00 **Unlucky** (8375) 11.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 12.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 1.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 2.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 3.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 4.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 5.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 6.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 7.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 8.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 9.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 10.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 11.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 12.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373)

SKY NEWS
Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES
10.00am **Unlucky** (8375) 11.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 12.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 1.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 2.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 3.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 4.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 5.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 6.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 7.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 8.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 9.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 10.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 11.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 12.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 1am
6.00am **Bonkers** (8561035) 6.25 **Moose Tracks** (840320) 6.50 **Darkwing Duck** (840320) 7.15 **Quack Attack** (840320) 7.40 **Aladdin** (198001) 8.00 **Timon and Pumbaa** (840320) 8.30 **Bonkers** (840320) 9.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 9.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 10.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 10.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 11.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 11.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 12.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373)

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00am **World Sports** (10207) 7.30 **World Sports** (10207) 8.00 **World Sports** (10207) 8.30 **World Sports** (10207) 9.00 **World Sports** (10207) 9.30 **World Sports** (10207) 10.00 **World Sports** (10207) 10.30 **World Sports** (10207) 11.00 **World Sports** (10207) 11.30 **World Sports** (10207) 12.00 **World Sports** (10207)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am **World Sports** (10207) 7.30 **World Sports** (10207) 8.00 **World Sports** (10207) 8.30 **World Sports** (10207) 9.00 **World Sports** (10207) 9.30 **World Sports** (10207) 10.00 **World Sports** (10207) 10.30 **World Sports** (10207) 11.00 **World Sports** (10207) 11.30 **World Sports** (10207) 12.00 **World Sports** (10207)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 4.00pm **Amelia** (1948) (32742) 4.30 **Blind Movie** (1978) (17733) 5.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 5.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 6.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 6.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 7.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 7.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 8.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 8.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 9.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 9.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 10.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 10.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 11.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 11.30 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373) 12.00 **Star Trek: Voyager** (144373)

EUROSPORT
7.00am **Sailing** (84822) 8.00 **Soccer** (84822) 9.00 **Soccer** (84822) 10.00 **Soccer** (84822) 11.00 **Soccer** (84822) 12.00 **Soccer** (84822)

GRANADA PLUS
6.00am **Runway** (407752) 6.30 **One Up a Tree** (1967158) 6.45 **One Up a Tree** (1967158) 7.00 **One Up a Tree** (1967158) 7.15 **One Up a**



DRAGON AWAKES 50

Deng Xiaoping
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BUSINESS

NEW KINGDOM 47

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MONDAY OCTOBER 14 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Fund managers forecast rise in inflation and interest rates

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH fund managers are convinced that inflation will be higher in 12 months because of strengthening economic growth and that interest rates will have to rise, according to the latest Merrill Lynch Gallup survey.

The pessimism on inflation was virtually unanimous, with 99 per cent of the institutions surveyed expecting higher inflation in a year's time, significantly

higher than the 80 per cent recorded in the September survey. Of those questioned, 89 per cent believe base rates will rise over the same period, compared with 80 per cent previously.

Trevor Greetham, of Merrill Lynch, the stockbroker, noted that the survey was conducted before last week's news of a rise in underlying inflation in September to 2.9 per cent, from 2.8 per cent in August, and that this underlines a growing pessimism on prices. He believes that most fund managers are working on

the assumption that Kenneth Clarke will not raise base rates before a spring election for political reasons, in spite of expectations of strengthening growth.

The Government's target for underlying inflation is 2.5 per cent or less, and a similar figure is widely expected to be adopted if Labour wins.

On the political front, there has been a slight loss of confidence in Labour compared with the Conservative Party. In the latest survey 89 per cent of managers expect Labour to win the largest number

of seats, compared with 92 per cent in the September survey.

The latest survey shows that fund managers appear to be swinging away from a preference for retailing stocks and towards the engineering sector. This appears to be another sign of optimism about growth, with fund managers betting that strong consumer demand will fuel a recovery in manufacturing.

Fund managers have moved from being heavily pessimistic on British equities, with the lowest point of confi-

dence recorded in June, to being roughly neutral, suggesting that the market should be able to move higher from the current levels.

A separate report published today suggests that British companies are cutting back drastically on their investment plans because of uncertainty about the timing and the outcome of the election.

Since April, middle market companies' expectations of capital expenditure growth have more than halved, from 26 per cent in the second quarter to 12 per

cent in the third, according to Coopers & Lybrand's Middle Market Barometer. A spokesman for the accountancy firm said: "Firms in the domestic market really seem to have slammed the brakes on."

Investment growth estimates from domestic-based businesses are reported to have fallen to 2.8 per cent, compared with 31.2 per cent in the third quarter.

However, exporters continue to stand out as a bright spot, with expectations of 27.5 per cent growth in capital spending in the third quarter.

Officials paid bribes escape prosecution

BY JASON NISSE

THE most prevalent form of corruption by government officials in the UK is not being prosecuted as a criminal offence, internal documents from the main investigating bodies have shown.

A letter seen by *The Times* from the head of the anti-fraud unit of the Audit Commission, the body that investigates corruption in public services, states that attempts by government officials to pressure people into paying them bribes should be treated as "maladministration" rather than "corruption".

This means that any evidence of officials putting pressure on businesses to pay inducements should be sent to the Government Ombudsman, whose powers are only to award compensation, rather than to the Crown Prosecution Service, which would start criminal proceedings.

The practice of pressuring people to make them pay inducements is described by the National Audit Office (NAO), which oversees the Audit Commission, as "normal method" corruption.

In practice, say, a Customs official may not allow a consignment of goods to pass through a port because he wants to check on some obscure regulations, so the business person is induced into



Zander: bribery is criminal

paying a bribe to move the goods through.

The NAO says this is the most prevalent form of corruption in the UK. But it admits that the offence may be hard to prosecute because of the difficulty in obtaining evidence: the officials do not actually solicit the bribe orally or in writing, but by their actions or inaction.

Professor Michael Zander of the London School of Economics, who headed the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, also identifies the practice as criminal. "An official who inflicts damage on an individual, in abuse of his powers, is guilty of the common law crime of misconduct in a public office."

However, a letter from Derek Purdy, the head of the anti-fraud unit of the Audit Commission, shows that the body, which is the main investigator of such crimes in the UK, takes a different attitude.

Mr Purdy was handed tape-recorded evidence of officials from a London council attempting to pressure a builder into paying a bribe to gain approval for some work.

In the letter, which has been shown to *The Times* by the builder, Mr Purdy admits that there is evidence of the officials "working up to, but never actually asked for, a sweetener to smooth the way."

He says this is not "anything which might be called corruption... As it stands, it is a complaint of maladministration which is an Ombudsman matter".

The builder has since obtained legal opinion that the case demonstrated that corruption had taken place.

The Audit Commission refused to discuss an individual case and Paul Vevers, a director of the Commission, said that no general point could be drawn from the evidence put to him.

Companies are believed to be induced into paying millions of pounds in bribes to officials every year.

Business people are in a difficult position. They are aware that, while no bribe may be solicited explicitly, one is often expected.

However, if they are caught, they can be prosecuted for a criminal offence — and often are. This can create the bizarre situation that the person being paid the bribe may avoid any criminal proceedings, while the person who has been pressured into paying it faces jail for giving in to the pressure.



A CELEBRATION of the success and persistence of a British designer starts at the Design Museum on London's South Bank tomorrow. Doing a Dyson features the work of James Dyson, above, whose

revolutionary bagless vacuum cleaners are now Britain's first- and third-largest selling, and whose business has sales of £100 million a year. Mr Dyson, 49, who spent five years developing the Dyson

Dual Cyclone, saw his design rejected by major manufacturers and only obtained the finance to launch it when an American company stole the concept and he successfully sued for breach of patent.

Seven to go as insider takes reins at MGAM

BY ROBERT MILLER

EFFORTS to keep Keith Percy as chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management in the wake of the Peter Young affair have failed. He will be replaced later this week by Robert Smith, an insider who heads the development capital division of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.

Mr Smith, who is president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, joined Morgan Grenfell in 1989 and started the development capital division from scratch. Since then it has raised more than £1 billion to fund management buyouts.

As *The Times* reported last Wednesday, Morgan Grenfell is expected to announce, possibly tomorrow or Wednesday, a clearance of senior managers directly or indirectly responsible for monitoring the trading activities of two European unit trusts run by Mr Young, sacked for gross misconduct and the subject of a Serious Fraud Office investigation.

Other Morgan Grenfell executives expected to leave are Michael Wheatley, the compliance director, Glyn Owen, the chief investment officer for the firm's international funds, including those run by Mr Young, and Graham Kane, managing director of the group's unit trust business. Mr Kane is also a director of Imro, the City watchdog for fund managers, and he is expected to resign this post as well after standing aside during the inquiry.

Other less senior personnel in the Morgan Grenfell compliance department are also

expected to leave the fund management house, bringing the number of resignations this week to seven.

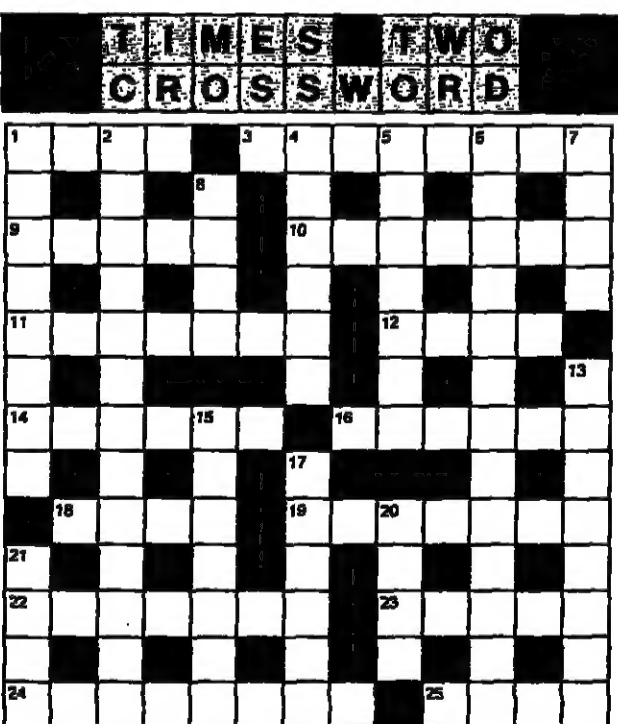
The trigger for the departures is the completion of a preliminary report into the Morgan Grenfell affair by Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, Morgan Grenfell and its parent, the German Deutsche Bank, are keen to draw a line under the affair as soon as possible and restore investors' confidence in the group.

When the Imro investigation into how Mr Young was allegedly able to set up a string of Luxembourg companies through Wyler & Woolf, a Swiss law firm, is completed, the watchdog could take action against senior directors as well as the firm.

IN BUSINESS
TOMORROW



ANATOLE KALETSKY
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No 912

ACROSS

- 1 Obscure hero; NT epistle (4)
- 3 Old and feeble (8)
- 9 Give guarantee (for) (5)
- 10 Froth; Millais picture (7)
- 11 Cancel, make void (7)
- 12 Mosque prayer leader (4)
- 14 Find position of (6)
- 16 Be next to (6)
- 18 Long rod; last Cardinal at Canterbury (4)
- 19 One running football team (7)
- 22 To pardon, acquit (7)
- 23 Expanse of lawn (5)
- 24 Move to avoid (8)
- 25 Look closely; noble (4)

DOWN

- 1 Young person (8)
- 2 Betrayed (by own agent) (6-7)
- 4 Pre-birth stage (6)
- 5 Construct afresh (7)
- 6 Look miserable (4,1,4,4)
- 7 Check, try out (4)
- 8 One from Bangkok (4)
- 13 Trespasser (8)
- 15 Garden lattice-work (7)
- 17 Hinder (6)
- 20 Ogden, Beau — (4)
- 21 A fish; a voice (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 911

ACROSS: 1 Gulf Stream 7 Revival 8 Shrug 10 Enlarge 11 Binge 12 Debut 15 German 17 Humus 18 Licence 21 Phase 22 Vantage 23 Stagecoach
DOWN: 1 Cavel 2 Liver 3 Silver 4 Risible 5 Acronym 6 Friendship 9 Green Beret 13 Bombast 14 Nest egg 16 Old Vic 19 China 20 Neath

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VNU poised to boost its stake in Blenheim

BY JASON NISSE

VNU, the Dutch publisher, is planning tomorrow to buy another 10 per cent of the shares in Blenheim, the exhibitions group, to bring its stake up to 25 per cent.

The Dutch hope to then have a clear run at gaining control of Blenheim, currently valued at £450 million, at far less than the 500p a share they paid for their initial 15 per cent, bought last Tuesday.

Hugo Robson of ING Barings, VNU's merchant bankers, said: "Raising the stake is a very real option for us." The only block could be a

bid today by United News & Media, the publishing and TV group run by Lord Hollick, which was mulling over the possibility of a rival offer during the weekend. United was in talks with Blenheim in the summer, but was unwilling to pay more than 450p a share, which would make it difficult to justify the higher price it would almost certainly have to pay now.

Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch media group, which has been in talks with Blenheim for the past few weeks, is understood to have decided

against making a 480p-a-share offer today. It was close to an agreed bid for Blenheim when VNU interceded.

Reed has had no talks with VNU as yet, but the two parties are likely to meet to see whether a deal can be struck once VNU goes to 25 per cent.

Under Takeover Panel rules, one company can buy only 29.9 per cent of another without making an offer. It is also only allowed to buy an initial 15 per cent at one go, and must wait seven days to buy the next 10 per cent and seven more days to buy the rest.

Sheffield Wednesday targeted in £12m bid

New soccer play by Conrad

CONRAD, the leisurewear group that earlier this year lost out in the battle for Leeds United, is planning to buy another Yorkshire Premiership football club, Sheffield Wednesday (Jason Nisse writes).

The company has tabled a £12 million offer for the club. The move would make Wednesday only the fifth Premiership club traded on the stock market, after Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea and Leeds.

Conrad, which used to

boast Sir Bobby Charlton as a director, has been inundated with approaches from football clubs since its £18 million offer for Leeds United was rejected in favour of a lower bid from Caspian. Its offer for Wednesday is expected to be unveiled formally in the middle of the week.

Sources close to Manchester United were pouring cold water on another bid rumour that surfaced over the weekend. It linked the club, whose shares soared 61p to 513.5p on Friday, with an offer

Wickes bonuses may be repaid

FORMER senior directors of Wickes, including Harry Sweetbaum the ex-chairman, are considering handing back up to £3.4 million of bonuses paid to them by the DIY retailer in 1994 and 1995.

A group report on the £50 million profits overstatement is due on Wednesday. It is not expected to accuse any of the directors of fraud, but to say that the former directors should have been aware of what was going on.

Tunnel block

Militant French shareholders have threatened to block Eurotunnel's refinancing deal for giving too much to its bankers. Under the deal, the banks could end up with 75 per cent of the Anglo-French company in exchange for reducing Eurotunnel's £9.1 billion of debts. Shareholders will not have an opportunity to vote on the plans before the spring, as they need to be backed by all 225 banks that have lent to Eurotunnel.

Hepworth sale

Hepworth, the ceramics group, will today confirm it is thinking of selling its refractories business that makes heat resistant bricks. Interest is expected from Austria, France, the US and trade and financial buyers in the UK. Schroders, the merchant bank, is putting together a sales memorandum.

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